Book 2

Shahr Ramadan

Project Booklet

Under the Guidance of Moulana Nabi R. Mir (Abidi)

Please recite a Fātiḥah for
the sponsors of this project booklet.

Important dates in Shahr Ramaḍān

8th	Wafāt of Ḥaḍrat Abū Ṭālib ibn ʿAbd ul-Muṭṭalib (ʿa)
10th	Wafāt of Ḥaḍrat Khadījah al-Kubrā (ʿa)
14th	Shahādah of Ḥaḍrat Ḥamzah (ʿa) at the Battle of ʿUhud
15th	Wilādah of Imām Ḥasan (ʿa)
17th	Battle of Badr
18th	Night of Ḍarbat of Imām ʿAlī (ʿa); Laylat ul-Qadr
19th	Imām ʿAlī (ʿa) is injured during Fajr prayers
20th	Laylat ul-Qadr Night
21st	Shahādah of Imām ʿAlī (ʿa)
22nd	Laylat ul-Qadr
27th	Jumʿat ul-Widāʿ (Friday, April 29th, 2022)

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INFORMATION AND INSPIRATION:

The Guiding Light book 4: Guests in Islam
The Guiding Light book 7: Nutrition in Islam
The Guiding Light book 8: Spirituality in Islam

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بِسْمِ اللّٰهِ الرَّحْمٰنِ الرَّحِيْمِ

قال الله سحانه و تعالى: إِنَّ اللهَ تَبَارَكَ وَ تَعَالَى يَقُولُ الصَّوْمُ لِي وَ أَنَا أَجْزِي عَلَيْهِ

Imām Ṣādiq (ʻa) narrates from the Noble Prophet (ṣ) in a Ḥadīth al-Qudsī (narrated by Allah directly): Indeed Allah the All-Mighty, the Exalted, says that the fast is for Me, and I Myself am its reward.[1]

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Salāmun ʿalaykum!

I would like to extend my tabrīkāt, taḥīyyāt, and best wishes for the month of Ramaḍān! Alḥamdulillāh, with the blessing of this month we pray Allah (swt) will bless us with being able to truly benefit from all its majesty and barakah.

Indeed, we are facing challenging times. Two years ago was perhaps the first time our masājids were closed during the Noble month of Ramaḍan. And even now, we are still in this unique and challenging situation.

We pray for all those who have been affected by this pandemic. And indeed many who have lost their lives due to this virus who won't be able to participate as guests of Allah (swt) in this blessed month.

Indeed, ease accompanies hardship. (94:6). We pray to Allah (swt) for ease during these difficult times.

Brothers and sisters, this pandemic has taught us many lessons. Perhaps one of the more important ones being how fragile life can be, and how little time we may have. Therefore, we must take action and make smart investments with our lives.

Often when making an investment, we analyze which opportunity will yield maximum gains. In which case, the month of Ramaḍan is the best investment opportunity for us all. The reward for which is Allah (swt) the Infinite (as the ḥadīth indicated), making our gains infinite as well.

And for those who cannot fast this month, involve yourself in the barakah of the month by preparing food for ifṭār and suḥūr, joining those that are fasting during their meals, and perhaps eating lighter lunch meals during the day. You may not be able to fast with your body by avoiding eating or drinking, but you can inshāʾAllāh fast with your soul and your akhlāq and have a strong connection with Allah (swt).

So let us partake in this investment together. And as with any other opportunity, let us be strategic with our investment.

Here are some ways we can maximize our gains this month of Ramaḍan, inshāʾAllāh:

Setting Goals for Self-Improvement: First, spend some time in self reflection. Find areas within yourself which you need to improve on. Next, set some realistic goals for yourself. And finally, break down those goals into smaller goals with a plan of action. Get religious guidance to help you reach your goals for self-improvement.

Investing in the Noble Qurʾān: This can be done in the following stages, one after another:

- Establish a Connection: This is the Book, there is no doubt in it, a guidance to those who are God-conscious and looking for the truth. (Noble Qurʾān, 2:2). A firm connection with the book of Allah (swt), sent for our success in this world and the next. And a solution manual to all the problems we will encounter.
- Read, Read, Read!: The Noble Prophet (ṣ) has said: Read the Qurʾān and receive 10 rewards for each word.[2]

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[1] Uṣūl al-Kāfī: V.4, pg. 63

[2] قَالَ رَسُولُ اللهِ -صَلّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ: تَعَلَّمُوا هَذَا الْقُرْآنَ وَاتْلُوهُ؛ فَإِنَّكُمْ تُؤْجَرُونَ عَلَى تِلاَوَتِهِ بِكُلِّ حَرْفٍ عَشْرَ حَسَنَاتٍ

- Ponder and Understand: Do they not ponder upon the Qurʾān? Had it been from [someone] other than Allah, they would have surely found much discrepancy in it. (Noble Qurʾān, 4:82)
- Apply to Your Life: And the Apostle will say, ‘O my Lord! Indeed my people consigned this Quran to oblivion.’ (Noble Qurʾān, 25:30)
- Become an Ambassador: Imām ʿAlī (ʿa) said, Remembering the Prophet of Allah (ṣ) he said: [He was] a physician who carry his medicine with him, [He was a doctor of the soul] curing blind hearts, deaf ears and dumb tongues.[3]

Dhikr: Have a goal of recitation, even if they are small dhikrs. Take advantage of your time to recite dhikr when doing daily tasks like driving, cleaning, cooking, bathing, resting, waiting, etc.

Schedule: Having a good schedule is very important. Get advice on how to make a schedule, or make schedules together as a family. Adjust your schedule if needed, but being organized is one of the keys to success. As Imām ʿAli (ʿa) narrates, “The key to a foundational and successful life is good scheduling.”[4]

Financial: Take advantage of this month, give ṣadaqah, purify your funds by taking care of your religious obligations like khums, etc. Invest your money to sponsor ifṭār, sponsor a book, help an orphan, sponsor a student, sponsor books to be sent to the thousands of prisoners thirsty for books and knowledge, sponsor a video, etc. Involve your children in these obligations so they can learn and do the same in the future. Be part of the educational infrastructure of our future generations.

Quality Time with Family: As our narrations say, one of the best deeds is spending time with your family. Spend quality time with your family, work to become a strong team, a loving team, and a caring team.

Skills: Share your knowledge, skills and time to help empower other families and communities. Especially today through the virtual world we have become so much more connected making this more possible.

Invest More; Invest Strategically: Pay special attention to the important nights of Qadr (destiny) and the night and day of Eid where we will inshāʾAllah reap the reward of our efforts.

Balance is Key! And finally, the golden key for smart investing; be balanced in performing your responsibilities, and have a holistic approach to life.

Alḥamdulillāh, we are pleased to launch our annual Shahr Ramaḍān project booklet. May these lessons increase their love for Qurʾān and Ahl al-Bayt (ʿa), and encourage them to have the best akhlāq. We pray to Allah (swt) that we exit the month of Shaʿbān in the way the Noble Prophet (ṣ) and Ahl al-Bayt (ʿa) exited the month, and enter Shahr Ramaḍān the way they entered it.

Jazākallāh khayra and Best Wishes,
Nabi R. Mir (Abidi)
Resident ʿĀlim of SABA Islamic Center

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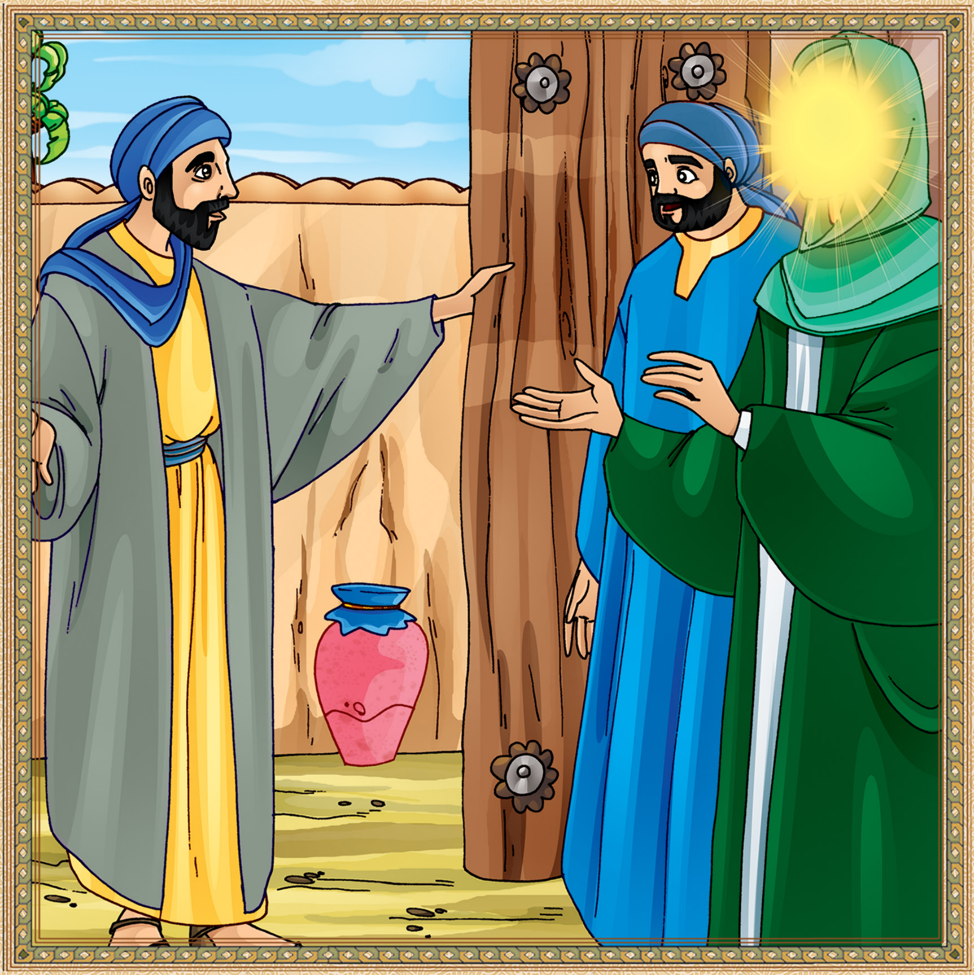
[3] Ghurar al-Ḥikam, Ḥadīth #2493
[4] Ghurar al-Ḥikam, Ḥadīth #6807

Lesson 1: Guests & Invitations

(taken from *The Guiding Light* book 4, lesson 1)



إِذَا دُعِيتُمْ فَادْخُلُوا

When you are invited, then enter.

Sūrah al-Aḥzāb, Verse 53

One day, a man invited the Prophet (ṣ) and some of his friends for lunch. He felt very honored when the Prophet (ṣ) happily accepted the invitation. He couldn’t wait to host the Prophet (ṣ) in his home!

While they were on their way to the man's house, they bumped into another friend, and this friend heard about where they were all going. "I'd like to come too!" he told the Prophet (ṣ).

"Hold on for a few minutes," said the Prophet (ṣ)."Let me ask if it's okay for you to also join us."

After arriving at the man's home, they exchanged salāms, and the Prophet (ṣ) asked the man if it would be okay for someone else to join them.

"Of course he can join us!" said the man. "The more the merrier."

So, they all entered the man's home and enjoyed a wonderful afternoon full of fun and happiness!

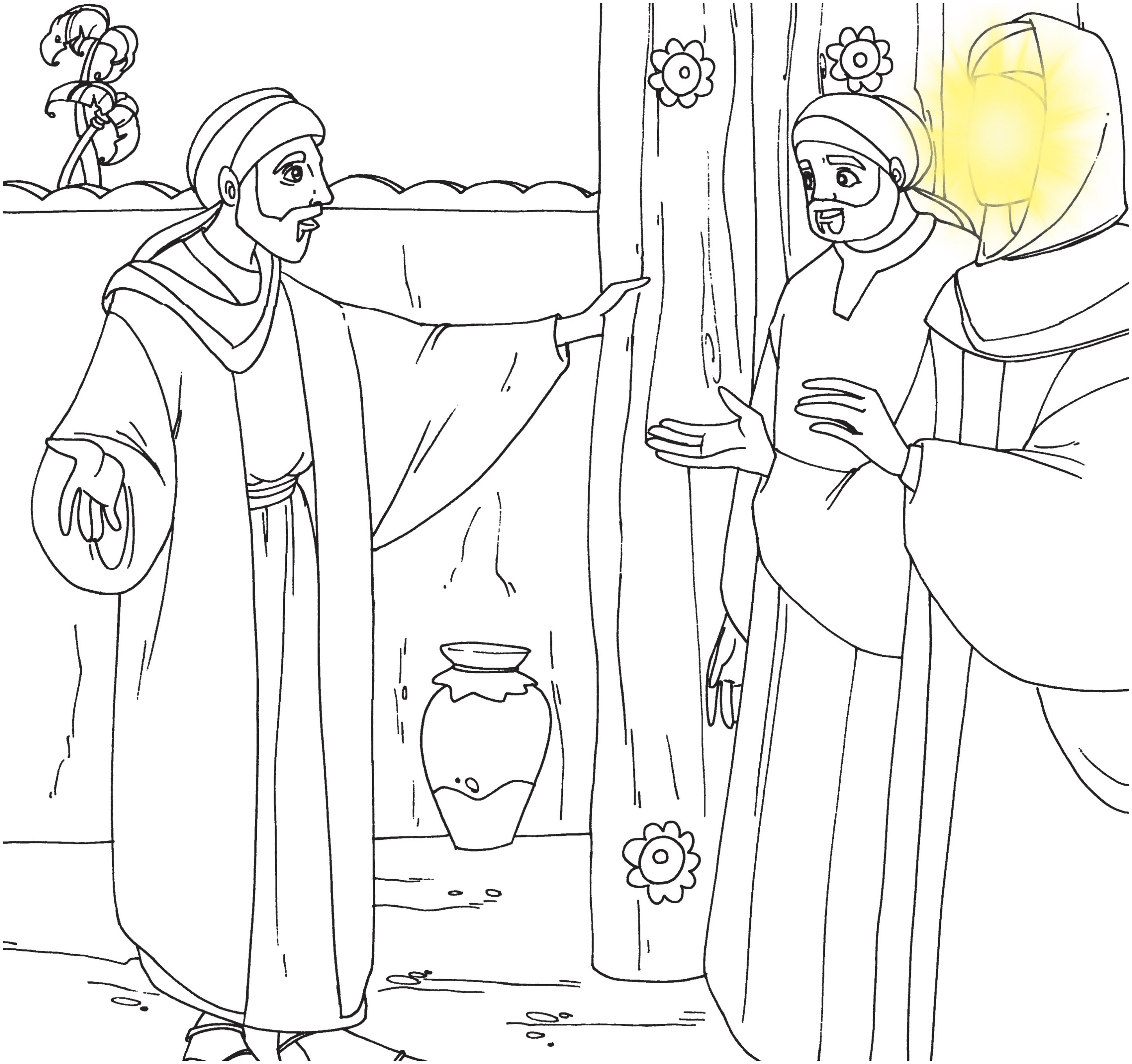
Mustadrak ul-Wasāʾil wa Mustanbiṭ ul-Masāʾil, Vol. 16, P. 7

وَمَنْ أَتَاهَا وَلَمْ يُدْعَ إِلَيْهَا فَقَدْ أَتَىٰ مَا لَا يَصْلُحُ لَهُ

Imām ʿAlī (ʿa):

It is not good to go to someone’s house without being invited.

Farhangnāmeh Mehmanī, Muḥammad Rey Shahrī, #224



Guests & Invitations

Objective: Students will learn about the manners of being a guest.

There are different manners and etiquettes when you are a guest at someone's house. For example, where to sit, how to speak, and not overstaying your visit. However, before we can discuss the manners of being a guest, there is one thing we must make sure of first.

Earlier, we read a story about the Noble Prophet (ṣ) going to someone's house for lunch. When they met a friend on the way who wanted to join them, what did the Prophet (ṣ) say? He said he should first ask the host if it was ok for the friend to join them. Only when they got the host's permission did the friend join them for lunch. Why did the Prophet (ṣ) do this? Well, he wanted to show the importance of being invited before going to some place. This is one of the first manners of a guest, as we mentioned earlier. It is important to be invited before going to someone's house because we don't want to put the host in an inconvenient situation, or burden them. Today, we are going to do an activity to remind us of this important etiquette.

Suggested Ages: 5+

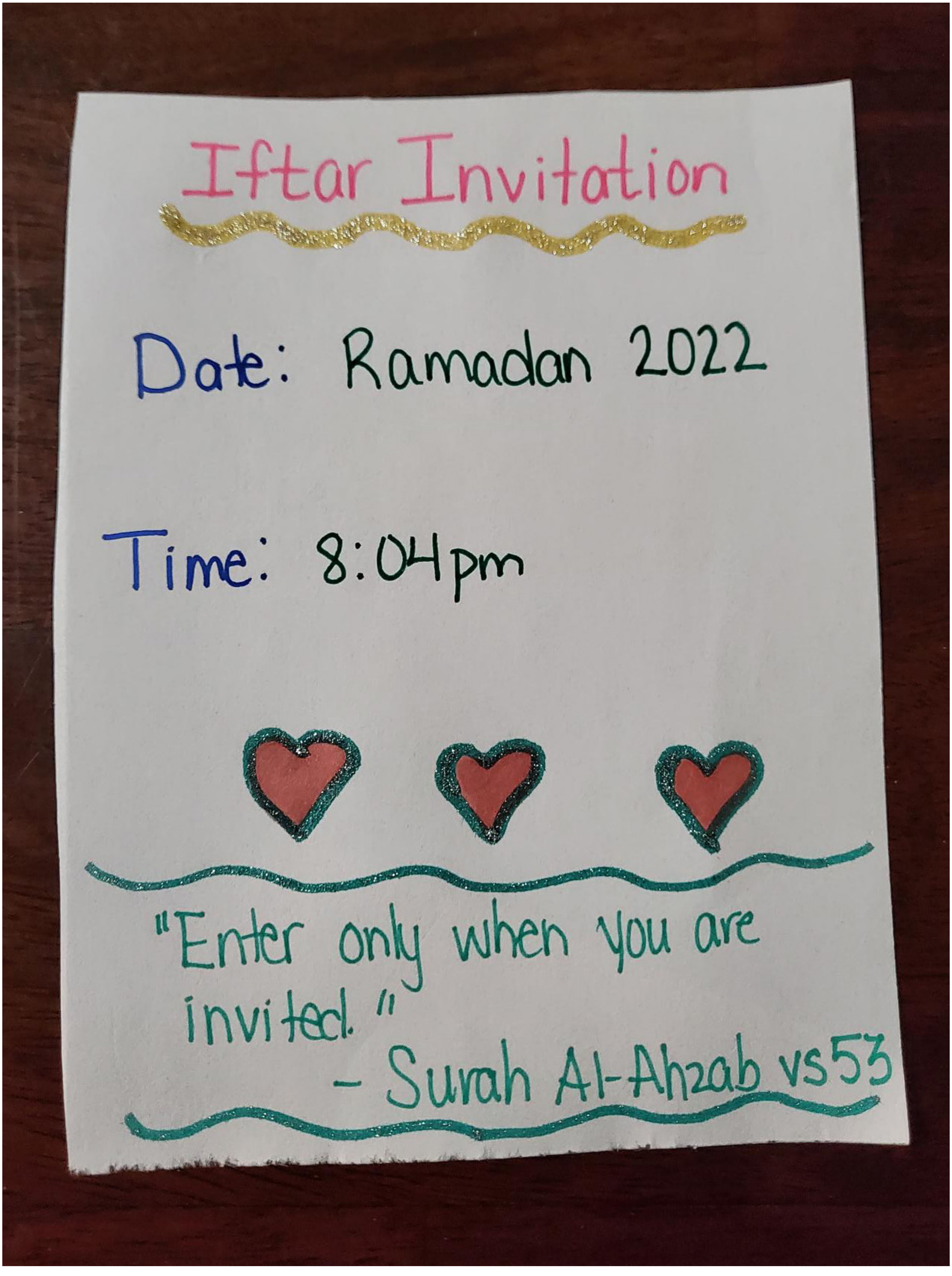
Time: 30 minutes

Materials:

- Construction paper in various colors
- Scissors
- Glue
- Markers

Procedure:

1. Using the color of your choice, cut a square the size of an invitation.
2. Write on the top of the card " Iftar Invitation."
3. On the bottom of the card write the ayāh "When you are invited, then enter."
4. Create a time/date for your invitation.
5. Color and decorate your invitation. You can draw pictures, use stickers, ribbons etc.
6. If you want to invite your family and friends for iftar, create as many invitations as needed.



Iftar Invitation

Date: Ramadan 2022

Time: 8:04pm

"Enter only when you are invited."

— Surah Al-Ahzab vs 53

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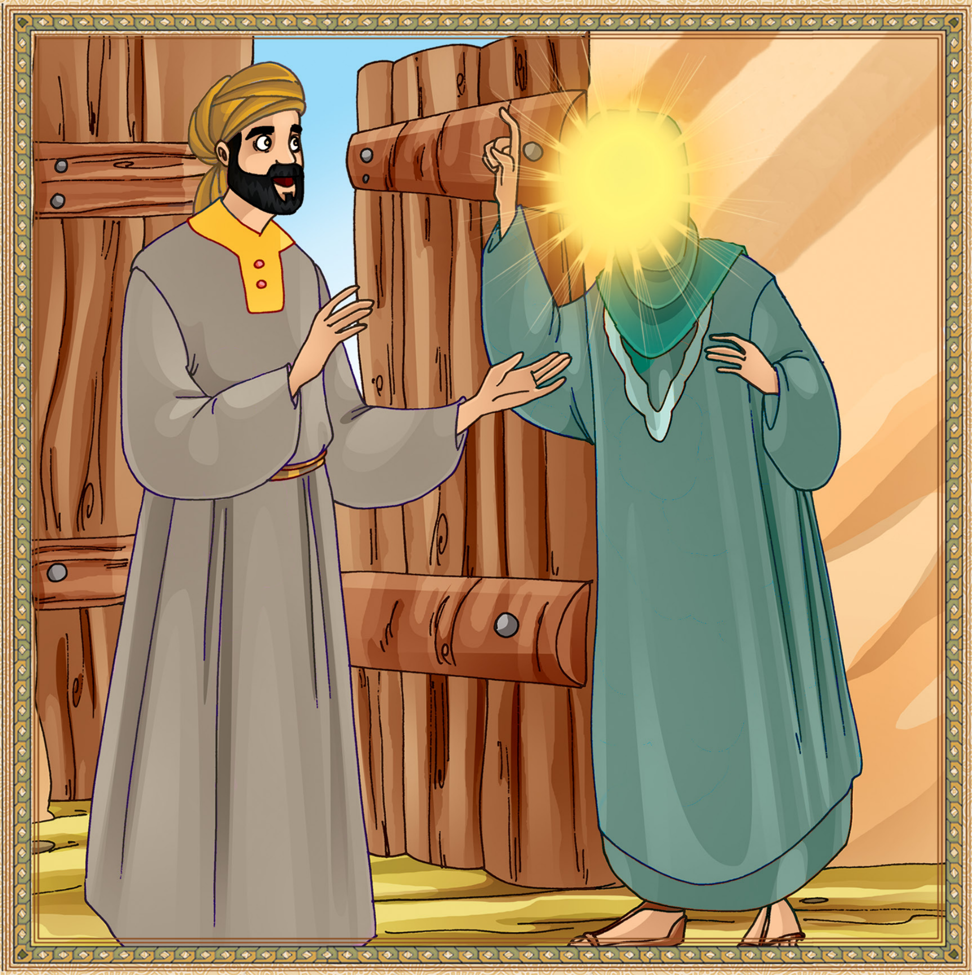
Lesson 2: Saying Salām

(taken from *The Guiding Light* book 4, lesson 2)



فَقُلْ سَلَامٌ عَلَيْكُمْ

So say “Salāmun ʿalaykum” [Peace be upon you].

Sūrah al-Anʿām, Verse 54

One sunny day, an angel was passing through town when he spotted a man standing outside someone else's home. He stopped and asked the man, "What are you doing in front of this house?"

The man said, "One of my dear brothers lives here, and I'm waiting for him to come out so I can say salām!"

The angel paused and then asked, "Is he one of your real brothers?"

"No, he's not related to me. He is my brother in Islam," replied the man.

"Then, are you waiting here to ask him for a favor?" asked the angel.

"No, I don't need anything from him. It's been a few days since I've seen him in the masjid, so I wanted to say salām and ask him how he's doing," said the man. "Allah likes it when you visit your friends and say salām."

The angel replied, "I have come from Allah, and He sends His salām to you."

The man was so touched and thought to himself, *Alḥamdulillāh, all praise is for Allah!* But he was also surprised. *What did I do to deserve a salām from the Creator of the universe?!* After a moment, he asked the angel, "But why would Allah send His *salām* to me?"

The angel responded, "You came to your friend with humility and kindness. Allah has said that you deserve to go to Heaven because of this act of kindness."

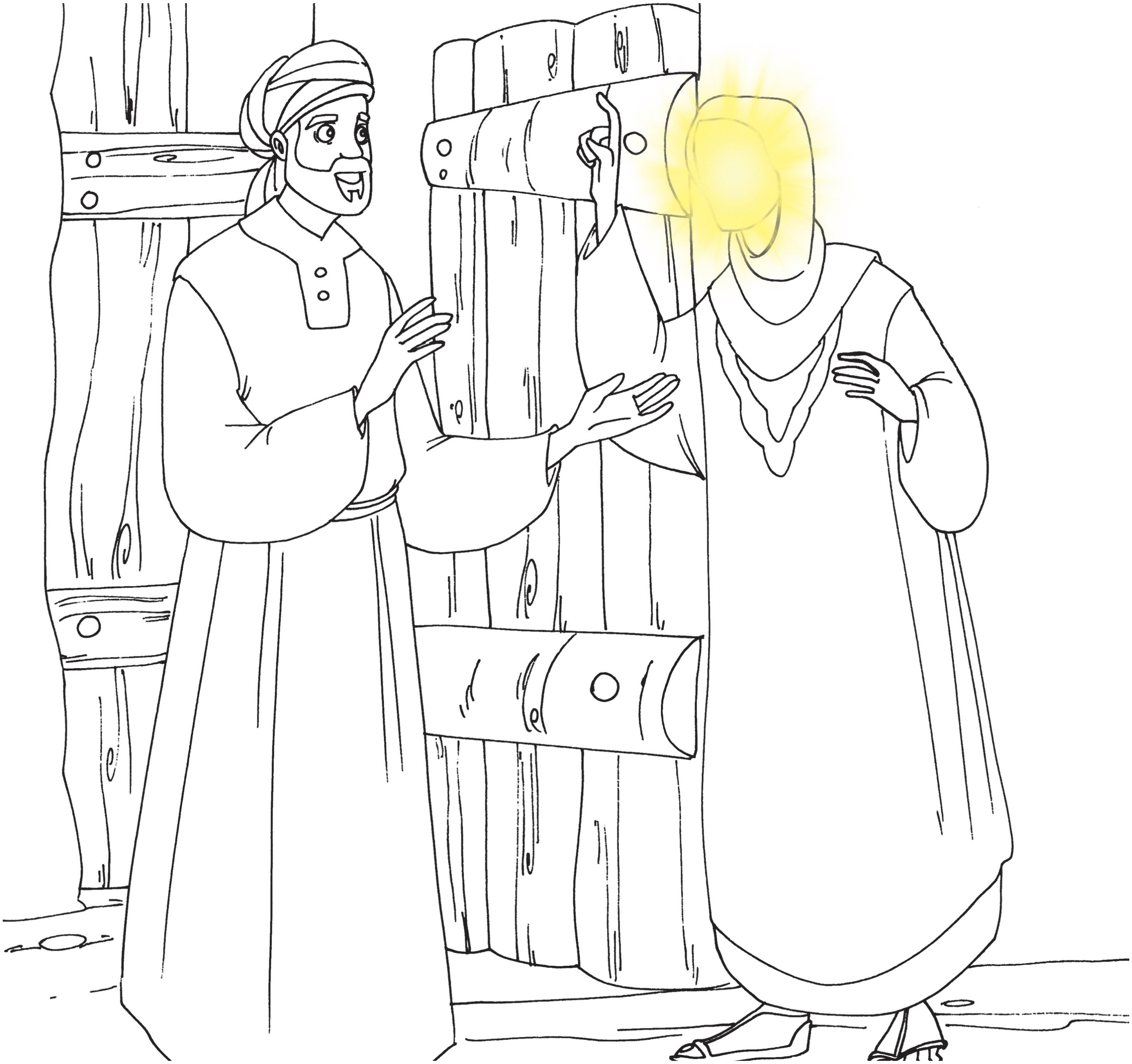
Surely, Allah loves it when we say *salām* to others and show them we care about them.

Jāmiʿul Akhbār, P. 118

إِنَّ اللهَ يُحِبُّ إِطْعَامَ الطَّعَامِ وَإِفْشَاءَ السَّلَامِ

Imām Muḥammad al-Bāqir (ʿa):
Surely, Allah loves those who help the needy and greet others with salām [speak and act peacefully].

Al-Maḥāsin, Vol. 2, P. 388, Ḥadīth #7



Saying Salāmun ʿalaykum

Objective: Children will learn about the Islamic way of greeting each other.

One important etiquette that we learn as Muslims is to greet our fellow Muslims with “salāmun ʿalaykum" to which the person would reply “wa ʿalaykum salām” meaning “peace be upon you.” When we greet our fellow Muslims in this way, we are telling them that they will be at peace with us throughout our time together - we will not hurt them neither with our actions nor with our words.

In the Noble Qurʾān, Allah tells us to greet one another in this manner as it is best for us. In Sūrah al-Anʿām, 6:54, it says “And when the ones who believe in Our signs come to you, say ‘Peace be upon you.’”

Saying salām is a highly recommended (mustaḥab) act within Islam, and when one sends their salām to you, it is wājib to reply, meaning that you must reply. It is best to use the greeting of the people of Paradise when seeing our fellow Muslim brothers and sisters. It sows the seeds of peace and positive relationships with one another and helps to remove any hostility in our hearts. A ḥadīth from Imām aṣ-Ṣādiq (ʿa), says that “the one who starts saying the salām is closer to Allah and His messenger (ṣ).” Thus, saying “salāmun ʿalaykum” to our fellow Muslim family and friends helps us bing closer to Allah.

Suggested Ages: 5+

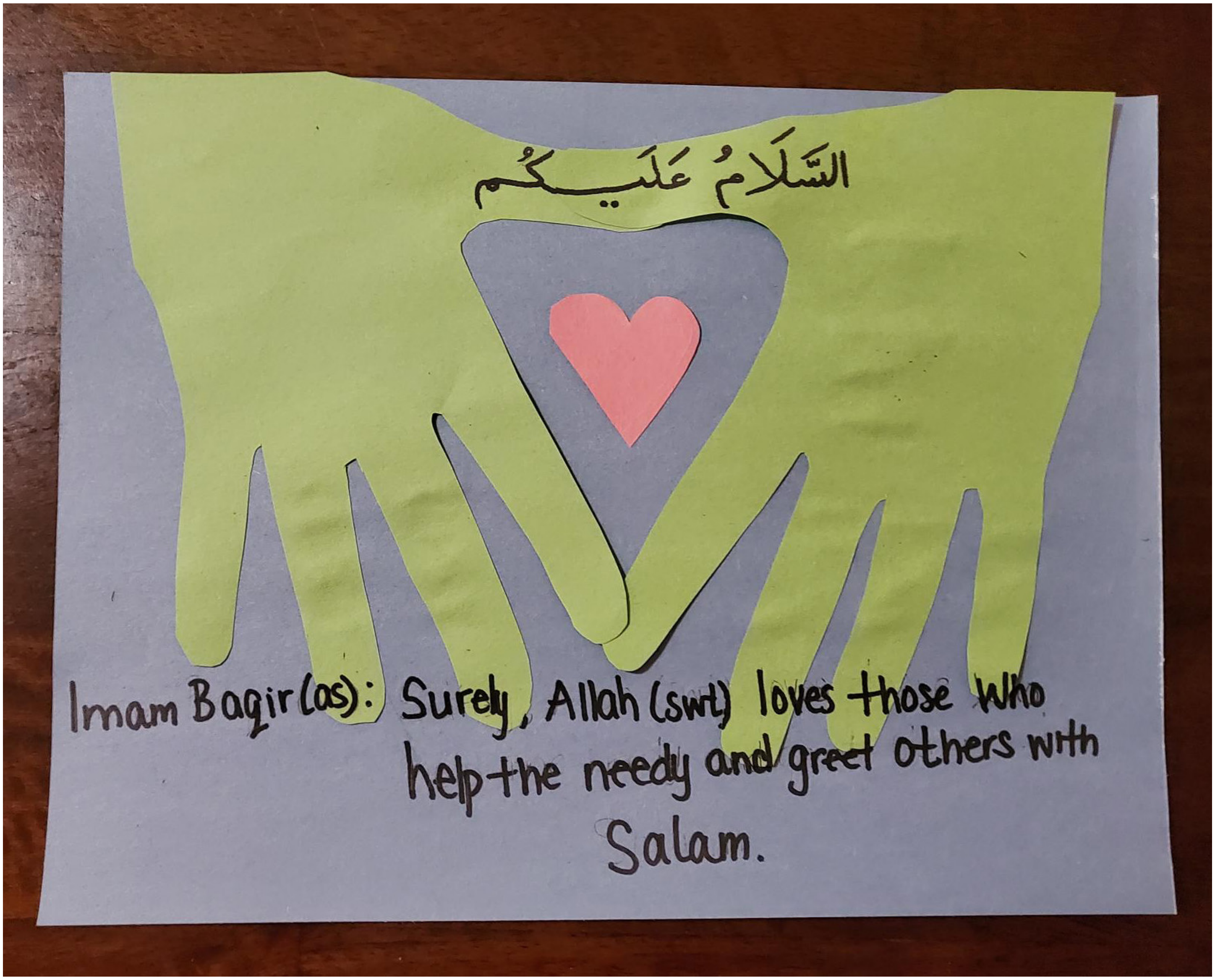
Time: 40 minutes

Materials:

- Piece of blank paper
- Construction paper (colors of your choice)
- Scissors
- Glue
- Markers

Procedure:

1. With the construction paper of your choice, trace the outline of your hand. You will need to do this with both hands.
2. Cut out the outline of your hands.
3. Cut out a heart in a different color.
4. With the blank piece of paper, lay the hand pictures flat with thumbs and index fingers touching. Glue the hands to the paper.
5. In the middle of the thumbs and fingers glue the heart cut-out.
6. At the top of the page, write “salāmun ʿalaykum” in either English or Arabic or both.
7. At the bottom of the page, write the hadith mentioned by Imām Muḥammad al-Bāqir (ʿa) from the lesson you have learnt.



السَّلَامُ عَلَيكُم

Imam Baqir (as): Surely, Allah (swt) loves those who help the needy and greet others with Salam.

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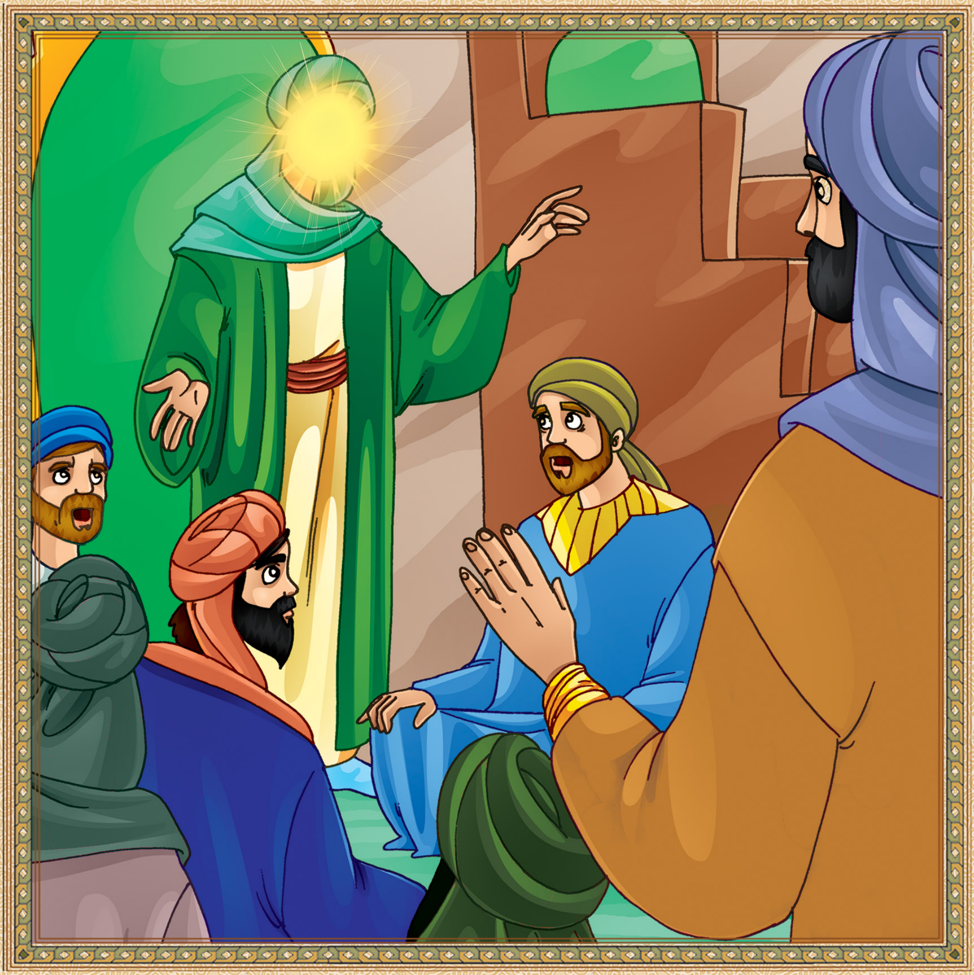
Lesson 3: Make Space for Others

(taken from *The Guiding Light* book 4, lesson 3)



فَافْسَحُوا يَفْسَحِ اللهُ لَكُمْ

Make room for each other [in a gathering], and
Allah will make room for you [in Jannah].

Sūrah al-Mujādilah, Verse 11

One Friday afternoon, the Prophet (ṣ) was sitting in the masjid, talking to a group of people.

Since the masjid was crowded, people were sitting very close to each other. After a while, another group of people walked into the masjid to say salām to the Prophet (ṣ), but there was no space for them to sit down and join the gathering! Nobody offered to make room for them, so they remained standing.

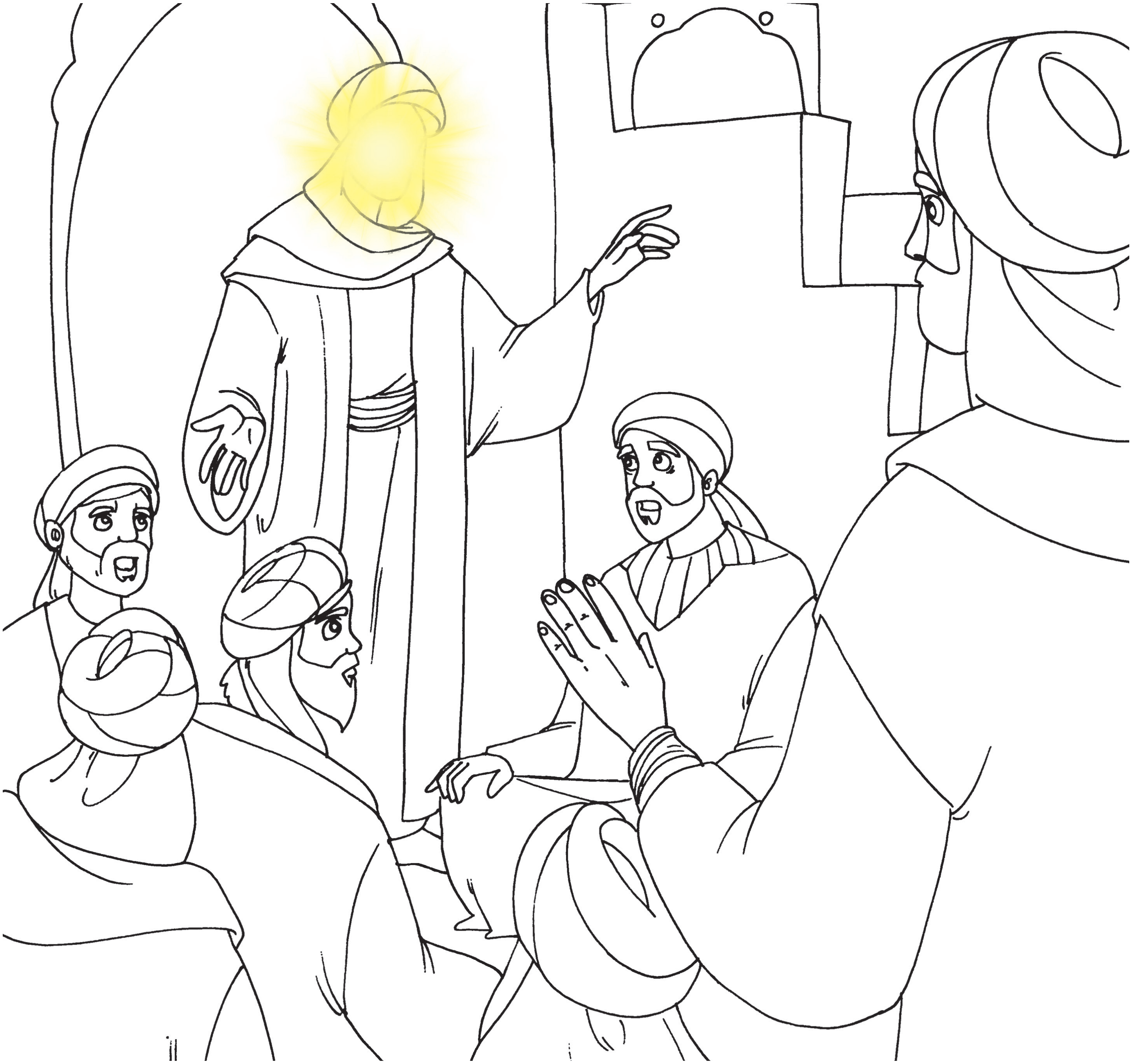
When the Prophet (ṣ) noticed this, he became upset. He turned to the people sitting and said, "The *akhlāq* of a good Muslim is to make room for those who have just entered."

Tafsīr Majmaʿ al-Bayān, Vol. 9, P. 380

وَ تَوَسَّعَ لَهُ فِي الْمَجْلِسِ

Prophet Muḥammad (ṣ):
When you are sitting in a gathering, make space for other people.

Nahj ul-Fasāḥah, Ḥadīth #1293



Make Space for Others

Objective: Children will learn the manners of sitting in a gathering.

Sitting in a majlis or a gathering for Islam and the Ahl al-Bayt (ʿa) is a blessed opportunity to gain knowledge and increase our īmān. We are required to act a certain way and have certain manners within the majlis in order to really benefit from it from the beginning to end. It is important to learn these manners so that we can benefit and have the pleasure of learning from the Ahl al-Bayt (ʿa).

One of the greatest etiquettes in a gathering is to make others feel welcome. This happens by greeting them with the greeting of those of Paradise "salāmun ʿalaykum" or by answering their salāms with "wa ʿalaykum salām." Another way to make someone feel welcome in the gathering is by making room for them. This means that you can make a spot for them to sit by moving over, or allowing them to sit next to you. In the Qurʾān, Allah teaches us to do so, and promises us that when we make room for others, He will make room for us in Heaven.[1] What a great reward! Not only does making room for others help us meet new friends, it also makes Allah happy with us.

Other important manners include not speaking when the scholar/speaker is speaking, giving respect to everyone in the room, and asking questions that are appropriate and increase our knowledge. By following the manners of a majlis we can help others around us learn, and get the rewards of the majlis too!

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[1] Noble Qurʾān, 58:11

Suggested Ages: 5+

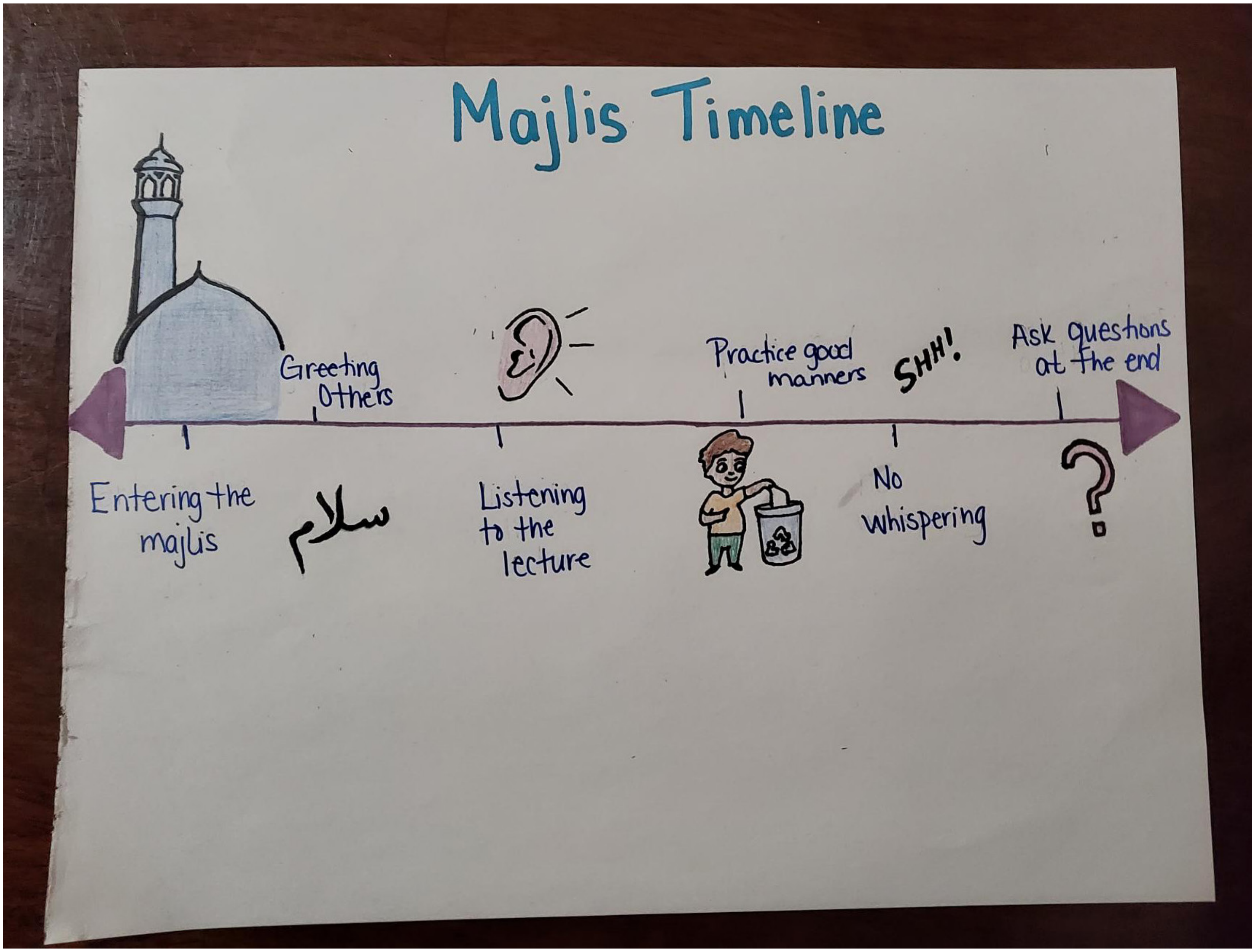
Time: 25 minutes

Materials:

- Coloured pencils
- Markers
- Pencil
- Eraser
- Blank piece of paper

Procedure:

1. Using a blank piece of paper, draw an arrow from one side to the other horizontally.
2. Trace the arrow in black marker to make it bold.
3. Starting on the left hand side, label the timeline "Entering the majlis."
4. At the very right hand side, label the timeline "Leaving the majlis."
5. Fill in the timeline according to the āḍāb of a majlis. Draw the corresponding pictures!


Majlis Timeline
Entering the majlis
Greeting Others
سلام
Listening to the lecture
Practice good manners
SHH!
No whispering
Ask questions at the end
?

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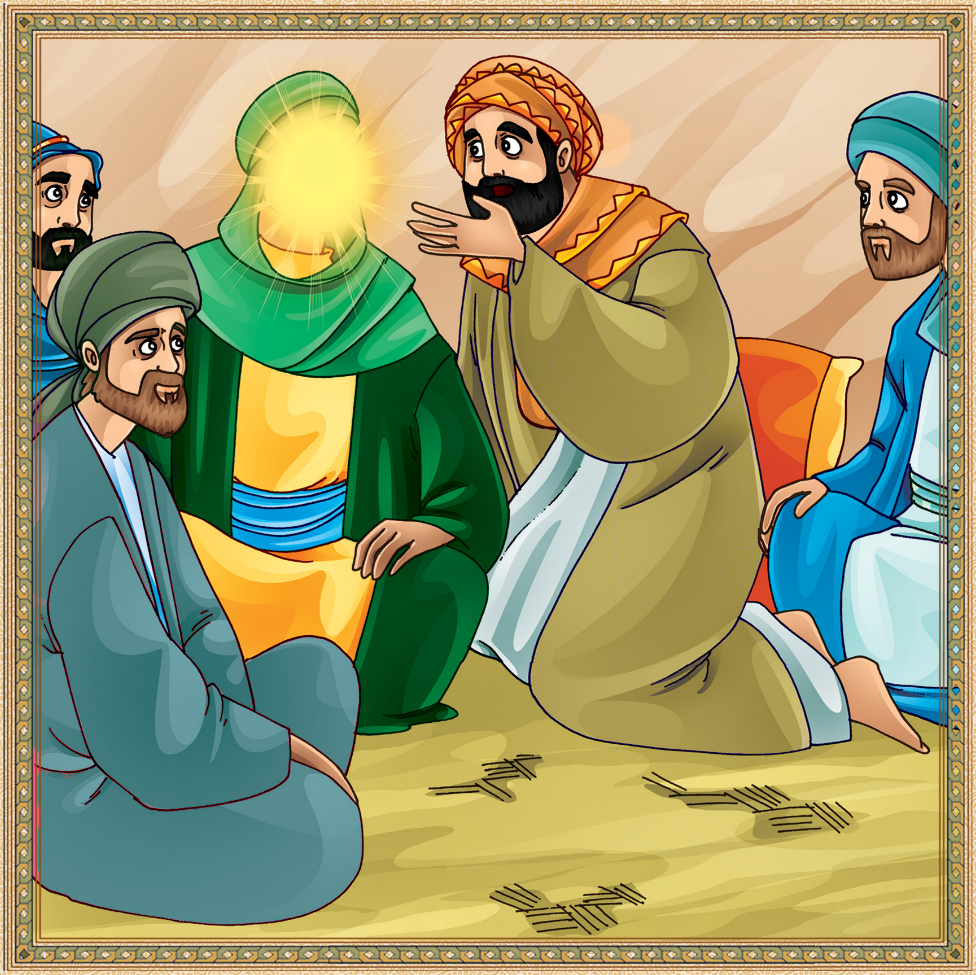
Lesson 4: Do Not Whisper in a Gathering

(taken from *The Guiding Light* book 4, lesson 4)



إِنَّمَا النَّجْوَيٰ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ

Surely, whispering [while you're in a gathering] is from Shayṭān

Sūrah al-Mujādilah, Verse 10

The Prophet (ṣ) always taught people to honor each other and not to think that they are better than others.

One day, he was sitting in a gathering with many people. Some people were very poor, some people were very rich, and some people were somewhere in the middle. The rich people started to whisper in the Prophet's ear to make the others think that they were closer and had a special connection to him. When they kept doing this, others became upset.

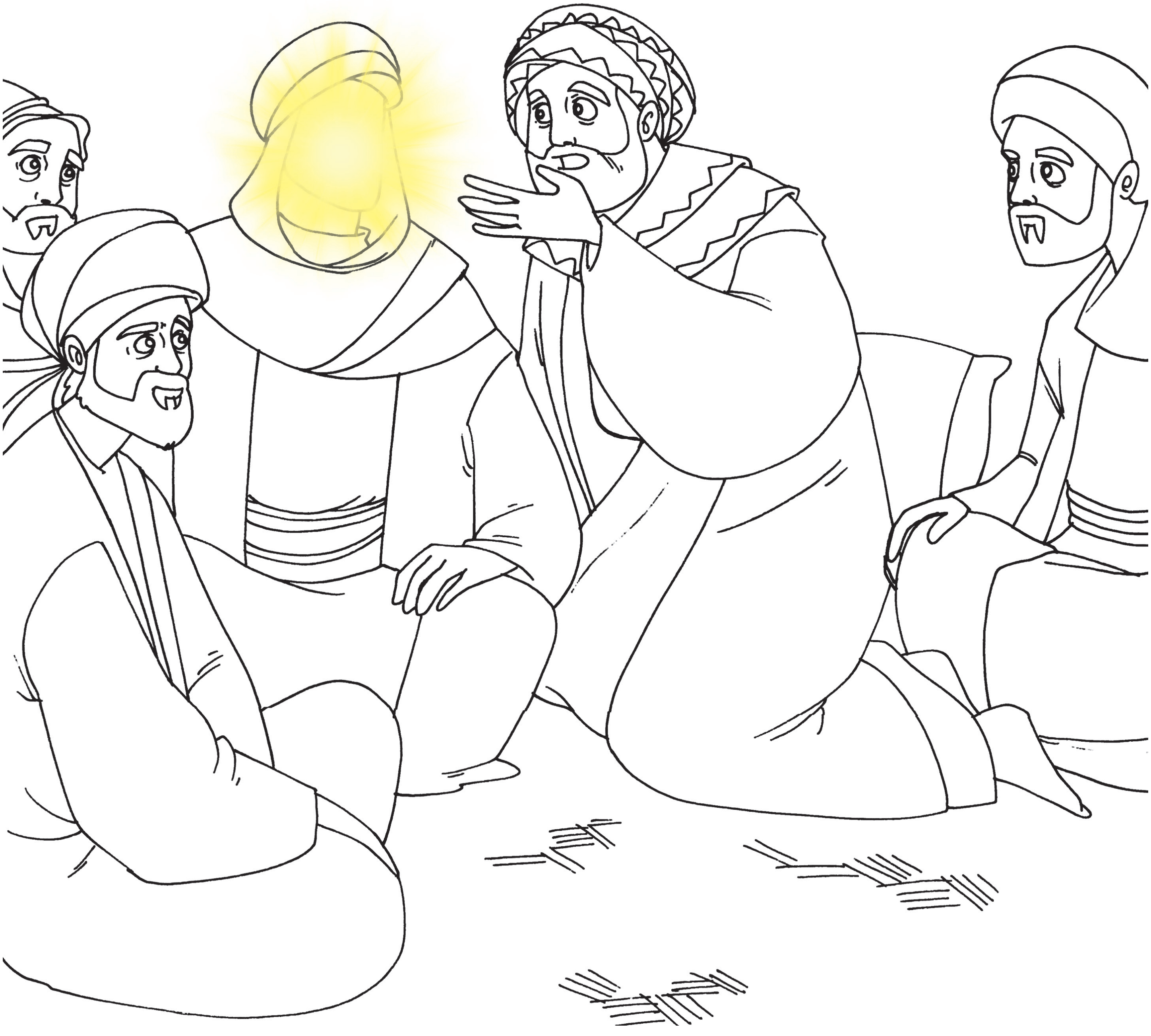
The Prophet (ṣ) waited patiently for the right moment to give them advice. When that moment came, he told everyone, "When you sit next to each other in a gathering, don't whisper in each other's ears. That is something that Shayṭān likes.”

Tafsīr an-Namūnah

وَ لَا تَنَاجَ مَعَ رَجُلٍ وَ أَنْتَ مَعَ آخَرَ

Prophet Muḥammad (ṣ):
Do not whisper to someone if there are others around.

Muntakhab Mīzān al-Ḥikmah, Ḥadīth #1082



Do Not Whisper in a Gathering

Objective: Children will learn the manners of speaking within a gathering.

While we have been learning about manners and appropriate ways to act within a gathering, another important lesson is about the manners of speaking in a gathering. We have to remember that people come to the majlis or gatherings of Ahl al-Bayt (ʿa) as an expression of their love to Ahl al-Bayt (ʿa), as well as to learn our beautiful religion and to become closer to Allah. In order to do this, we have to pay attention to what the speaker is saying and try our best to learn, even if it is only one thing. When we speak to others who are sitting in the majlis, we can easily distract them, and be the cause of not only them not paying attention and learning, but yourself as well. In addition, whispering in a gathering makes others feel left out. Some may also think that you are talking about them and they would feel hurt by your actions.

Allah says in the Noble Qurʾān, in Sūrah al-Mujādilah, 58:10, "Surely whispering (while you're in a gathering) is from the Shayṭān." In a ḥadīth, Prophet Muḥammad (ṣ) has said "Do not whisper to someone if others are around."

Whispering in a gathering is something that Shayṭān encourages and is not a recommended act from our beloved Prophet (ṣ) and the Ahl al-Bayt (ʿa). Whispering in a gathering while others are around may not only distract the speaker, but also make others around us feel left out or secluded. We don't want others to feel this way, especially in a gathering where we are meant to learn about our beloved religion. It is best to avoid the acts that are not recommended by them.

Suggested Ages: 5+

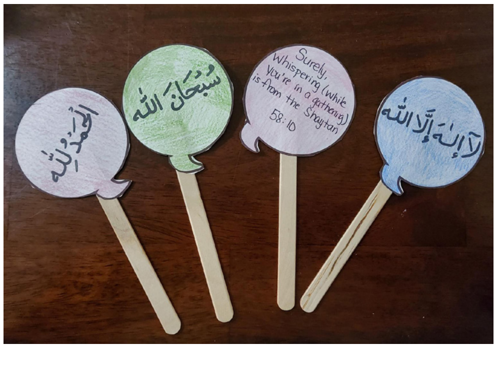
Time: 25 minutes

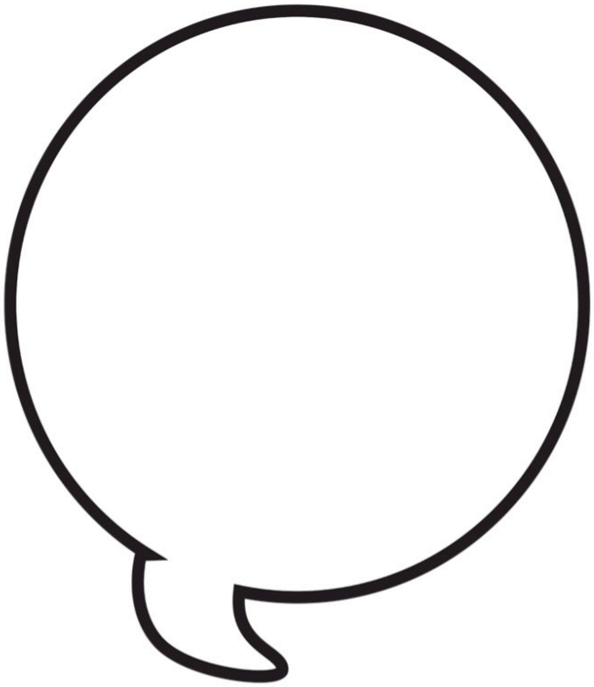
Materials:

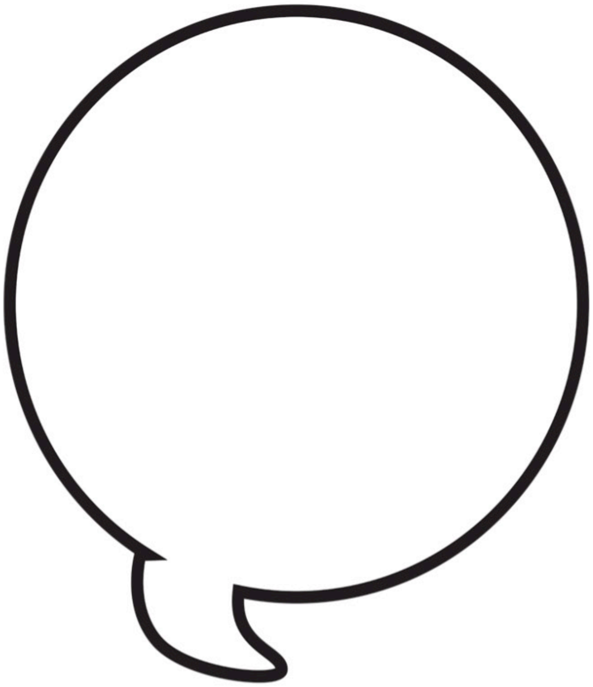
- Speech bubbles template
- Scissors
- Markers
- Glue
- Popsicle sticks
- Coloured pencils

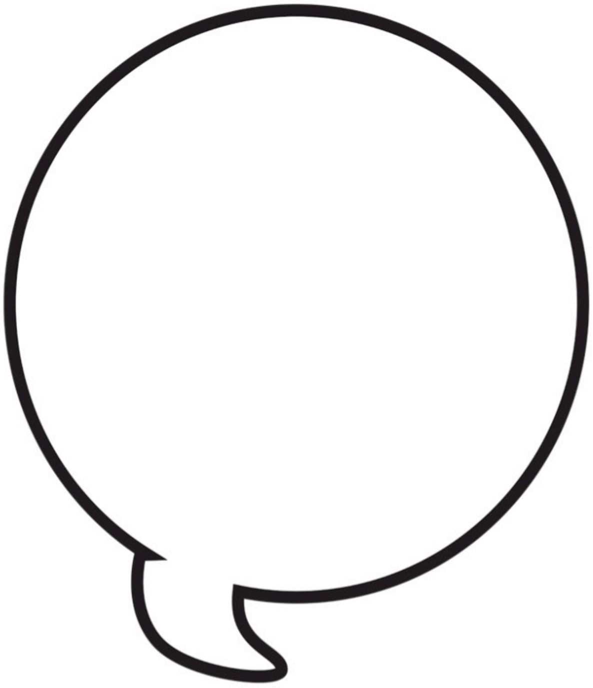
Procedure:

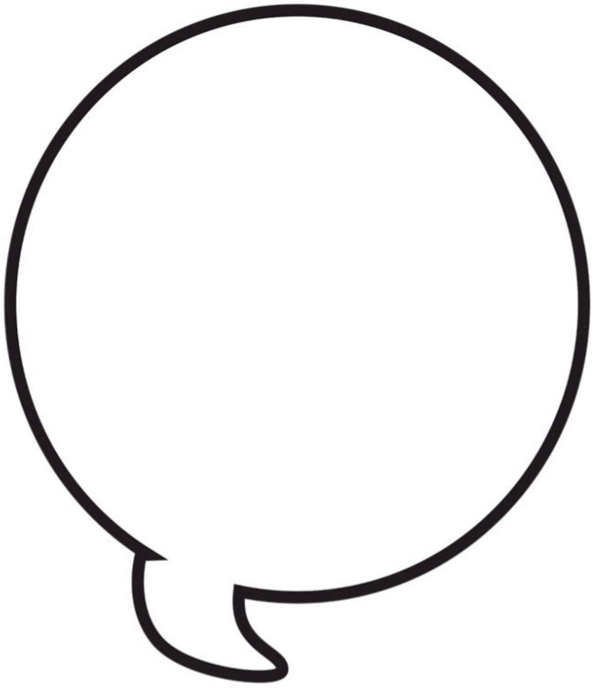
1. Cut out the speech bubbles template.
2. Color the speech bubbles as you wish, you can write out the recommended ḥadīth or āyah from the lesson or anything that you see fit. Ex: alḥamdulillāh, māshāʾAllāh, subḥānallāh etc.
3. Trace the writing in marker to make it bold and stand out.
4. Glue the speech bubbles to the popsicle sticks.


الحمد لله
سبحان الله
Surely, Whispering (while you're in a gathering) is from the Shaytan 58:10
لا إله إلا الله









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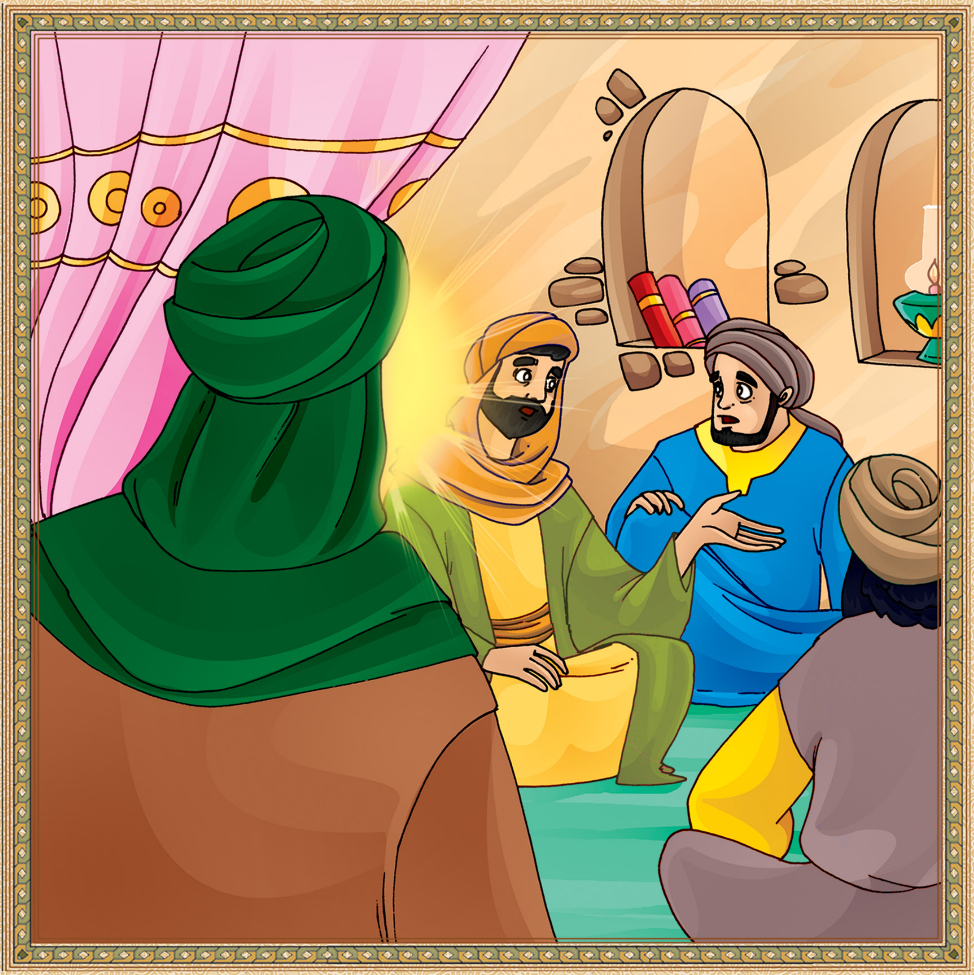
Lesson 5: Do Not Overstay Your Visit

(taken from *The Guiding Light* book 4, lesson 5)



فَإِذَا طَعِمْتُمْ فَانْتَشِرُوا وَلَا مُسْتَأْنِسِينَ لِحَدِيثٍ

Once you have finished your meal, leave soon after and do not lengthen your conversation [by overstaying your visit and causing the host discomfort].

Sūrah al-Aḥzāb, Verse 53

One day, the Prophet (ṣ) invited many of the believers to his home. The people loved looking at the Prophet (ṣ), listening to him, and being around him.

On this particular day, people were coming and going from the Prophet's home throughout the day until the evening.

Since there were so many guests, each group sat in a different room and enjoyed a delicious meal. Once the group would leave, the Prophet (ṣ) would clean the room. However, when he reached the last room, he saw that the group of visitors had already finished eating, but they still stayed and chatted for a long time.

The Prophet (ṣ) always liked to use his time wisely, but he did not have the heart to ask the visitors to leave. Out of his kindness and respect for them, he stayed quiet.

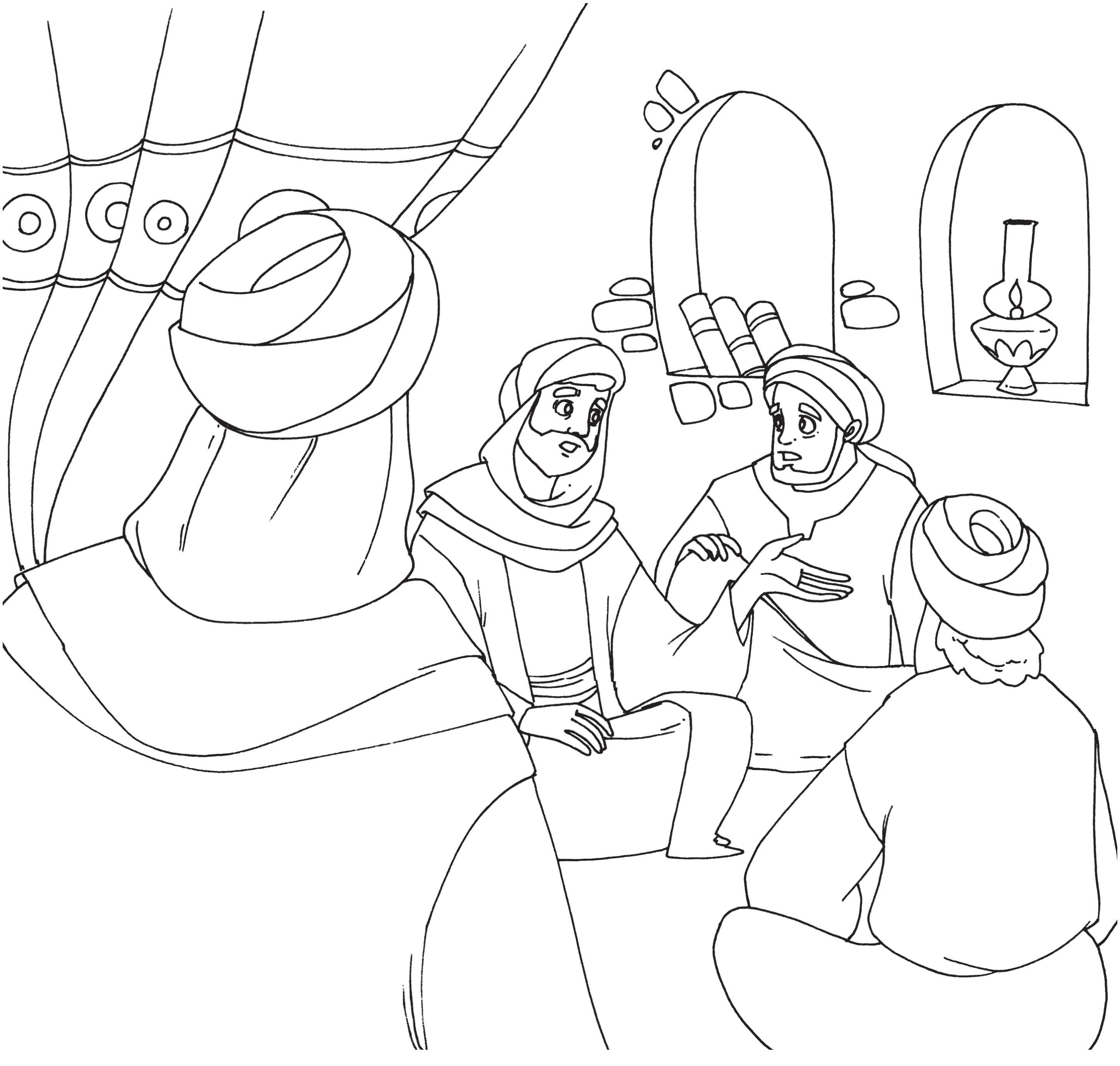
Just then, Allah sent down a verse of the Qurʾān to teach people about the manners of visiting: "When you finish your meal, leave soon after and don't settle down to chat." Later, the people understood that they should be more careful about staying over for too long without a good reason.

Al-Burhān, Vol. 4, P. 482

لاَ يَنْبَغِي لِلضَّيْفِ إِذَا نَزَلَ بِقَوْمٍ يُمِلُّهُمْ

Prophet Muḥammad (ṣ):
It is not good for the guest to become a burden on the host.

Farhangnameh Mehmāni Muḥammad Rey Shahrī, Ḥadīth #214



Do Not Overstay Your Visit

Objective: Children will learn about how to visit others and why we shouldn't stay too long.

In Islam, visiting others for joyous or even sad occassions is recommended. It is something good that we should do. Visiting others brings happiness to their hearts and ours, as well as strengthens our relationships. To be a good guest, we can bring the person we are visiting some food, greet them with a smile and "salāmun ʿalaykum," as well as talking to them in a polite and respectful manner.

When visiting others, it is important to remember that we are their guests. This means that they took extra effort to make their homes presentable, made us food, and invited us with love and kindness to share their time with us. In return, we should thank them for their hospitality and efforts. One way to do this is to verbally thank them, but also be respectful towards them.

In Sūrah al-Aḥzāb, Allah teaches us the importance of not overstaying our welcome in others homes. We are advised as Muslims not to engage in long conversations when we finish our meals at others' homes so that we do not cause any discomfort to them. Prophet Muḥammad (ṣ) in a ḥadīth, explains the concept more to us, when he said "It is not good for the guest to become the burden of the host." We want our host to feel just as happy as they have made us with their good intentions of inviting us. We can repay this kindness and follow the teachings of Ahl al-Bayt (ʿa) by not overstaying our visit. Before eating, we should thank Allah for the food and begin with Bismillah. While eating, let's not forget the words of the Qurʾān and not overstay our welcome.

Suggested Ages: 5+

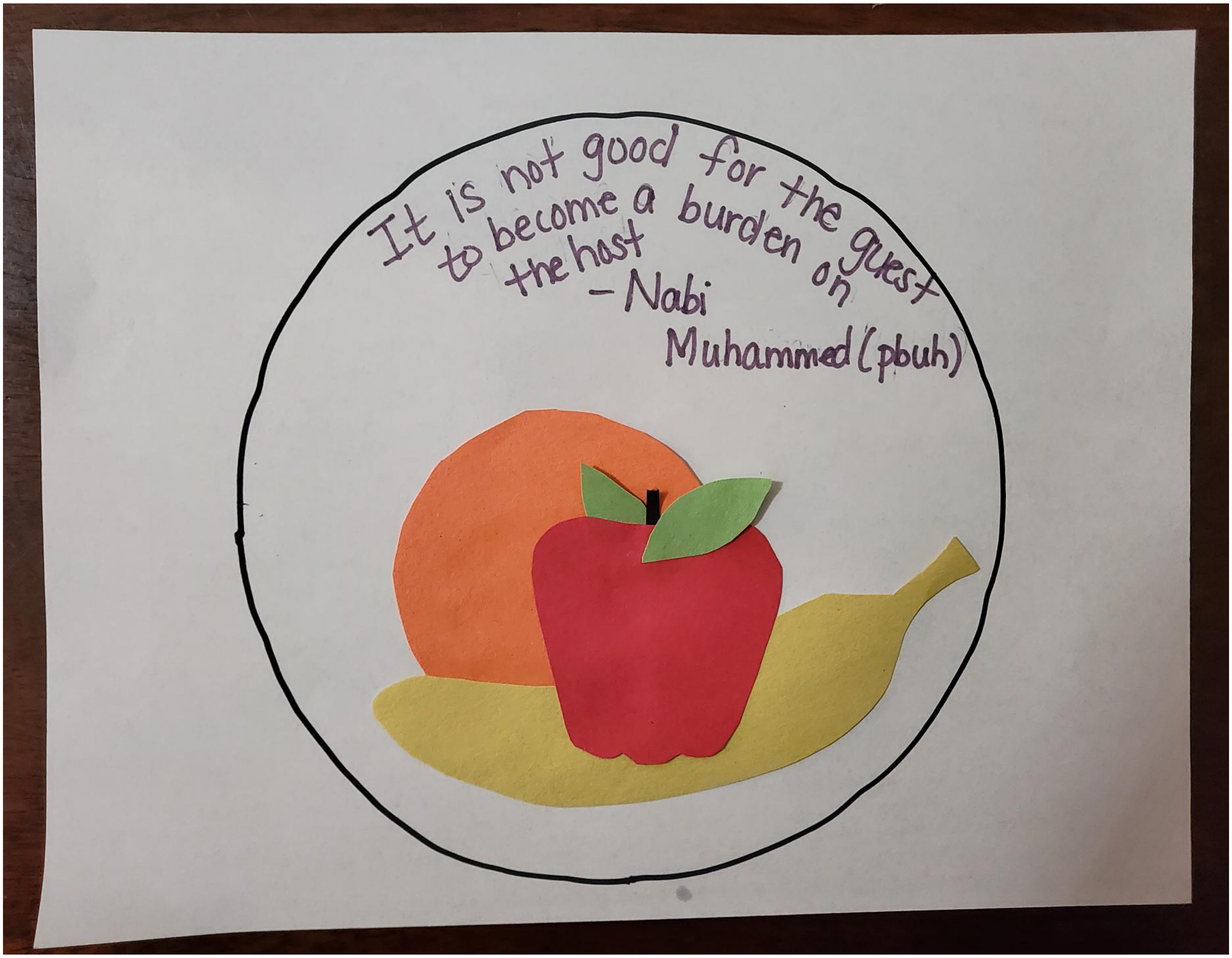
Time: 30 minutes

Materials:

- Colored pencils
- Markers
- Pencil
- Eraser
- Blank sheet of paper
- Construction paper

Procedure:

1. On the construction paper, draw and cut out different foods like apples, oranges etc
2. Draw a picture of a plate in the middle of the blank sheet of paper. Decorate and color how you like.
3. Glue the cut-out food onto the plate you drew.
4. At the bottom (or top) of the paper write the ḥadīth from the lesson.
5. Trace the ḥadīth in marker to make it stand out.



It is not good for the guest
to become a burden on
the host
– Nabi
Muhammed (pbuh)

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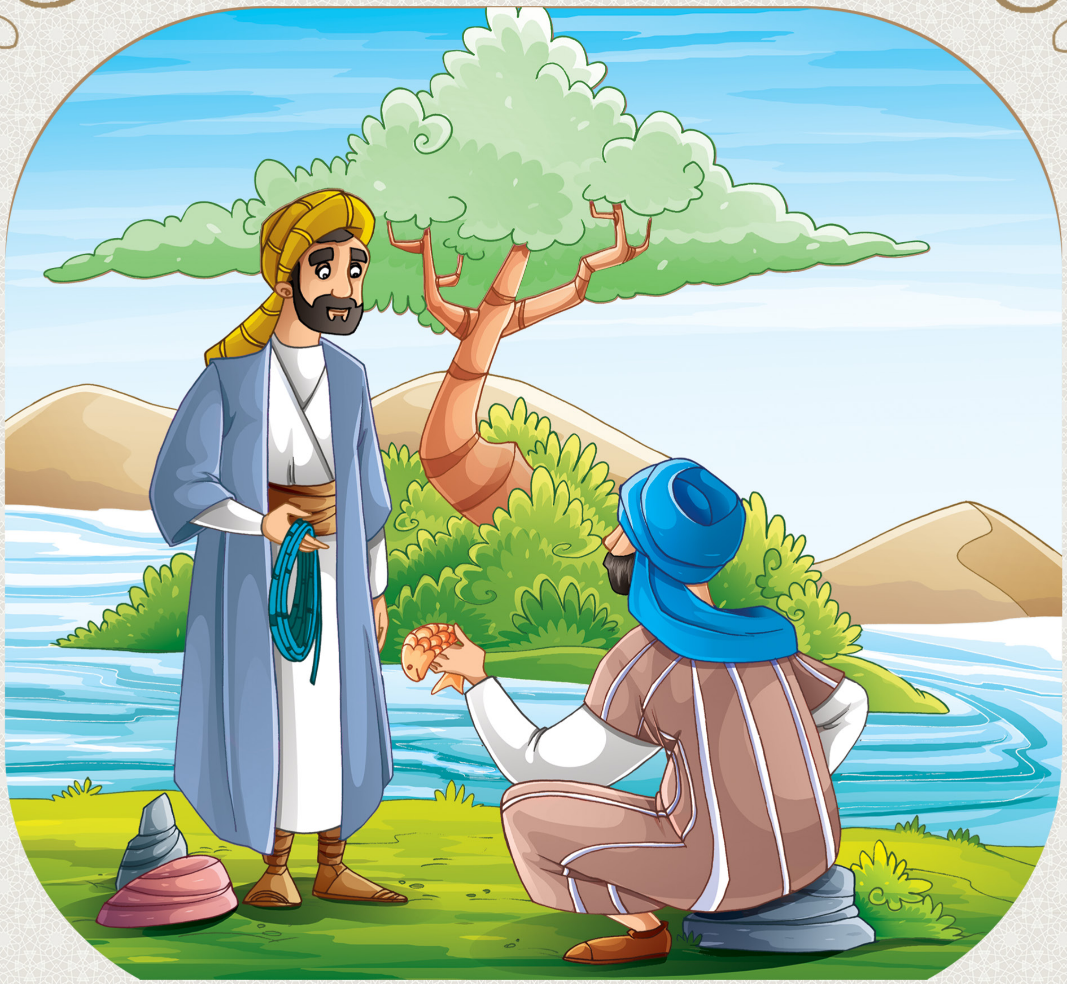
Lesson 6: All Rizq Comes From Allah

(taken from *The Guiding Light* book 7, lesson 1)



فَابْتَغُوا عِنْدَ اللهِ الرِّزْقَ

Work hard to get your rizq (sustenance) from Allah.

Sūrah al-ʿAnkabūt, Verse 17

There was once a young man who lived in a small village with his family. He would spend the entire day working very hard at his job. But no matter how hard he tried, he could not provide enough for his family. He failed at any business he tried. Little by little, his money was being spent, until it was all gone. He had lost everything!

One day, he made his way down to the river. After making wuḍūʾ, he raised his hands to the sky and prayed, "O Allah! You know that I am going through a very hard time right now, so please help me solve my problems. You are the All Merciful and All Powerful. I place all my trust in You alone!”

After making the prayer, his heart felt lighter and more peaceful, and he began to feel more hopeful and thankful. He was energized and began to think positively. As he made his way back home, he spotted a man who was having trouble catching a fish. So, he went up to him to see if there was something he could do to help. When the fisherman asked for some rope, the man gave him all the rope he had. In return, the fisherman gave him one of his fish. The man thanked him and continued on his way home.

When he reached home, he gave the fish to his wife to cook for dinner. But when she cut the fish wide open, she saw something that took her by surprise. "Look at this shiny pearl!" she exclaimed as her husband rushed to the kitchen. They looked at the pearl in amazement. "SubḥānAllāh!" they both cried out at the same time.

The next day, the man took the pearl to the market and sold it for a large sum of money. When he returned home, the whole family fell in sujūd to thank Allah for this wonderful blessing.

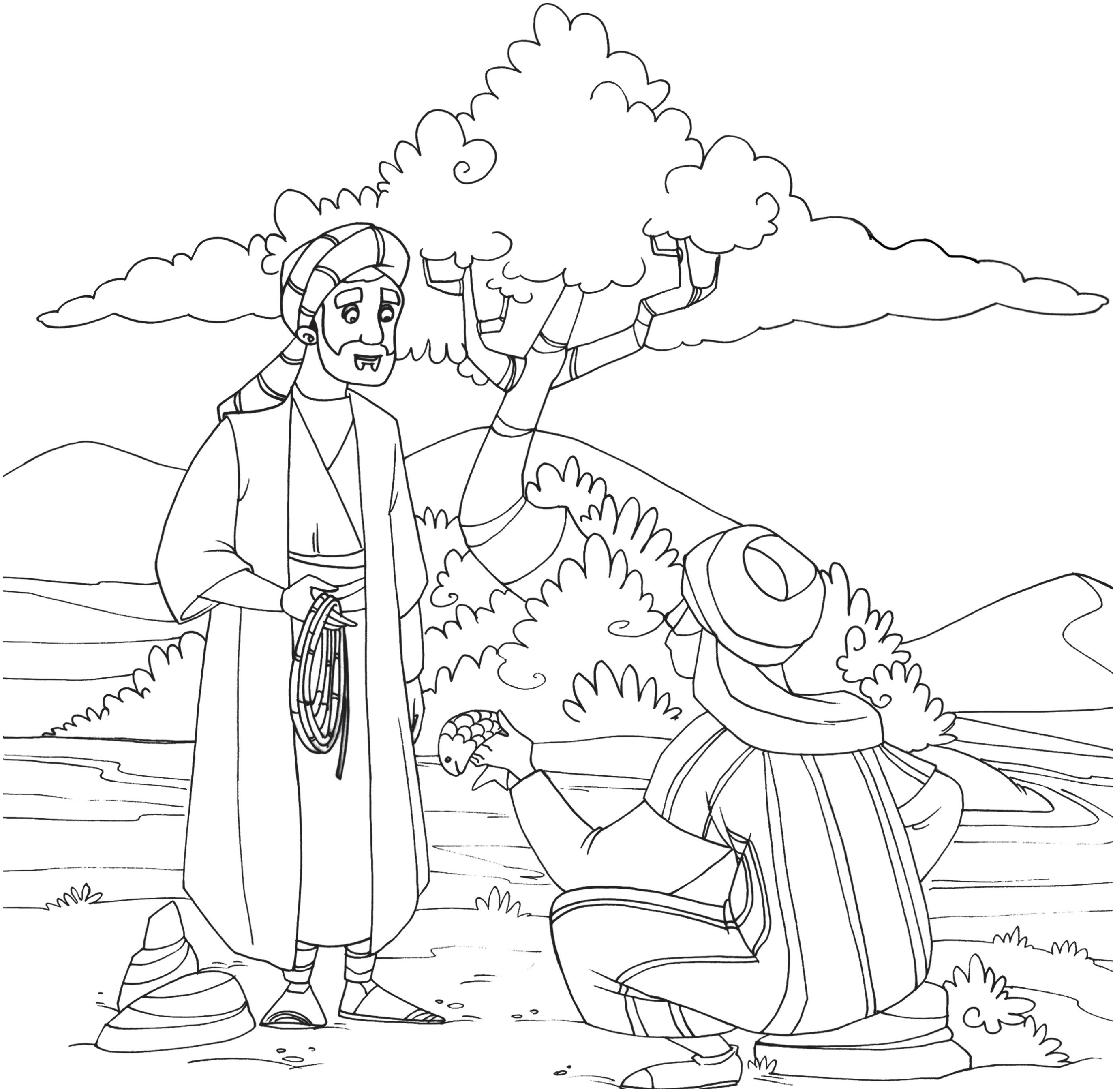
*Rizq: All the blessings that Allah gives out to us, such as food, clothing, health, time, and useful knowledge. Can you name more examples of rizq?

Ḥadīqat ash-Shīʿah (693 -2/691)

مَنْ حَسُنَ بِرُّهُ بِأَهْلِ بَيْتِهِ زِيْدَ فِي رِزْقِهِ

Imām Jaʿfar aṣ-Ṣādiq (ʿa):
When someone is good to his/her family, Allah gives him/her more sustenance.

Biḥār ul-Anwār, Vol. 71, P. 10



All Rizq Comes From Allah

Objective: Children will learn where rizq comes from and how to increase it.

Rizq is the Arabic word for sustenance. As Muslims, we know that our sustenance meaning all the things that we require to live such as food, water, shelter and money come from the blessings of Allah. He is our provider and sustainer. Rizq can be found in many forms, and not just physical blessings like money. Rizq can be when we are blessed to have the tawfīq to read the Qurʾān, understand the value of our religion, going for ziyārat, as well as the health to be able to pray.

While Allah is the provider of all the things that we need, it is important to remember that we are supposed to continue working hard to gain our sustenance. When we recall the teachings of the Ahl al-Bayt (ʿa), we have certain tasks that we should do to help us maintain our sustenance. Some of these things include always being grateful to what Allah has given us, working hard in school (or at work), not wasting resources such as food, and being generous with others. When we follow the guidelines from the Qurʾān and the Ahl al-Bayt (ʿa) and we are generous with others, Allah will not leave us empty handed.

Suggested Ages: 5+

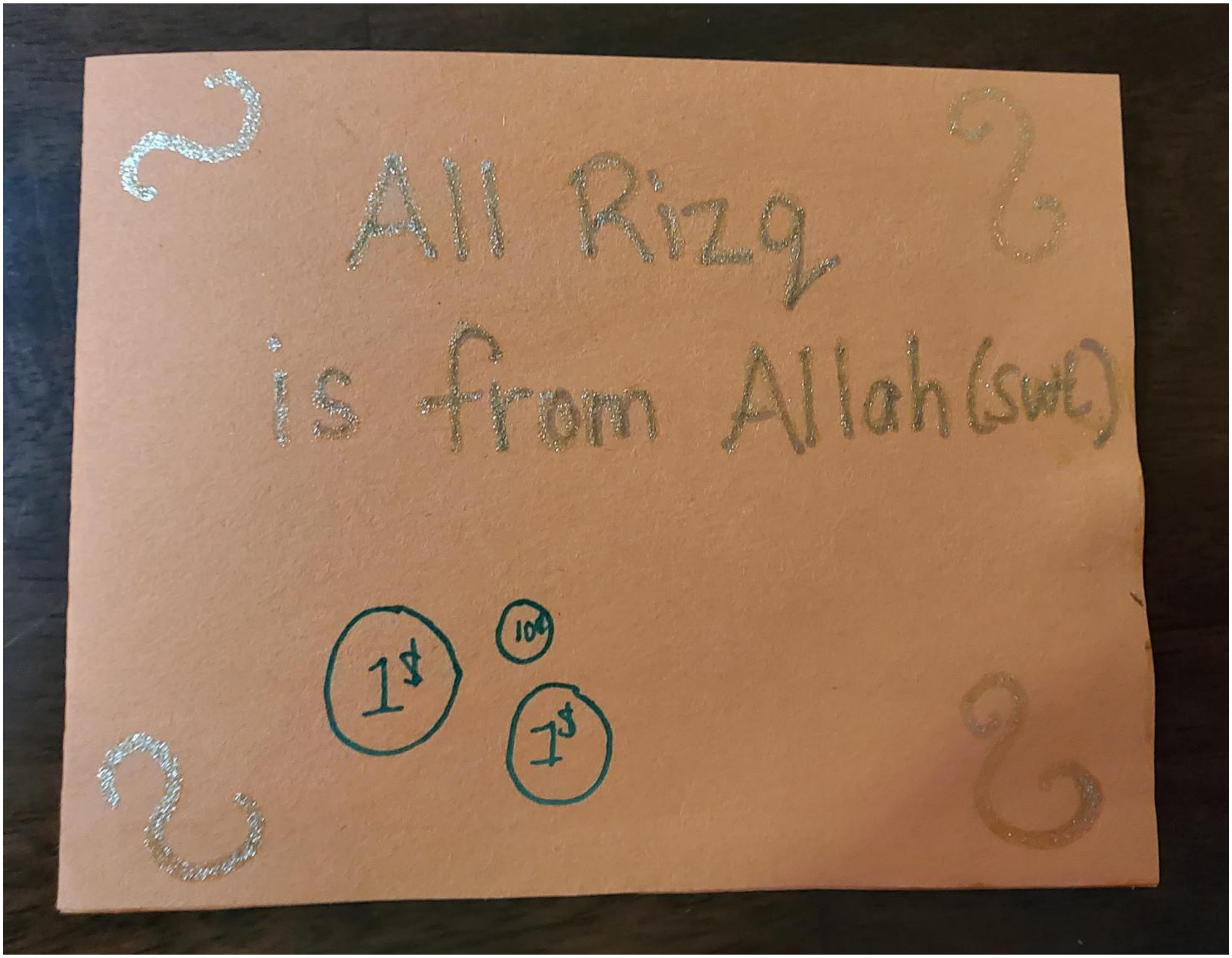
Time: 35 minutes

Materials:

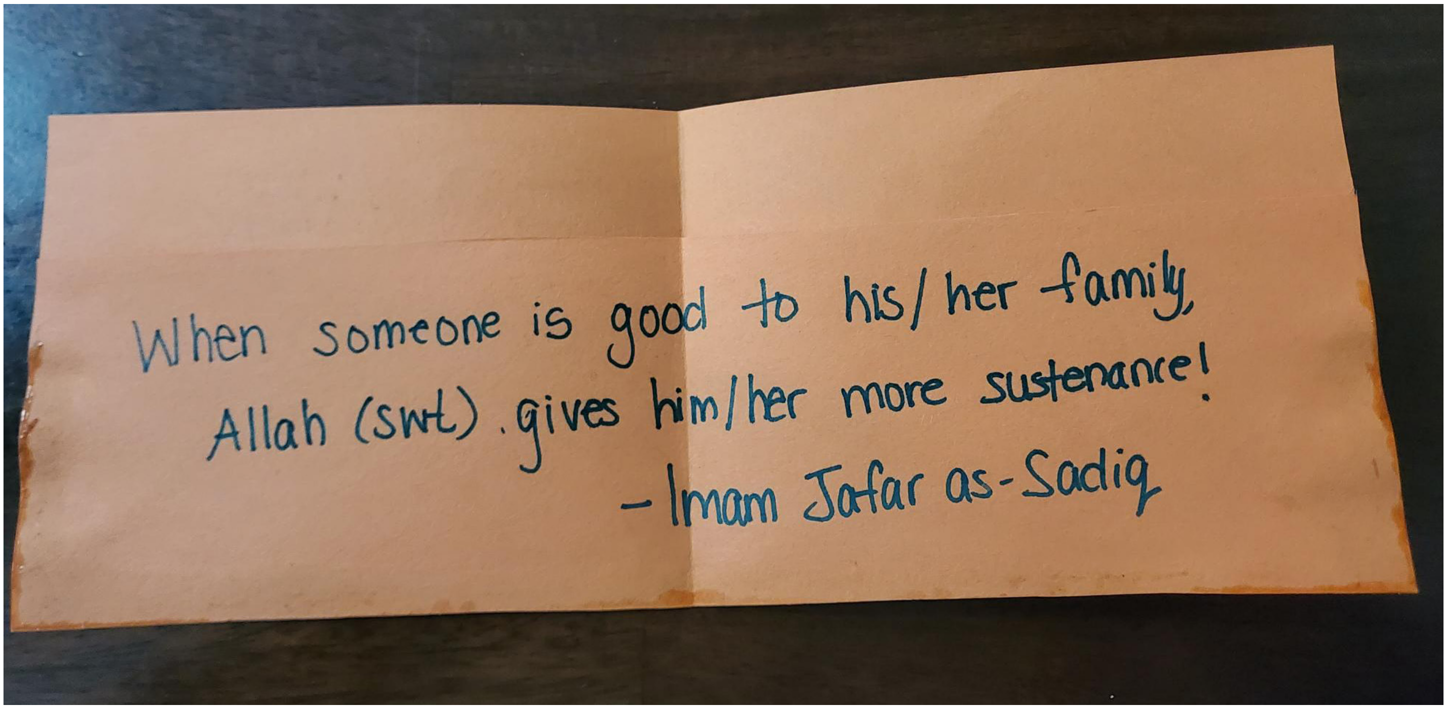
- Glue
- Scissors
- Colored pencils
- Markers
- Ruler
- Pencils
- 2 pieces of paper or construction paper

Procedure:

1. With a blank piece of paper, draw a line horizontally from one end of the other in the middle of the page. This will make a straight line to cut on.
2. Cut along the straight line.
3. Fold the paper in half from left to right. This is the outside of your wallet.
4. Color and decorate how you would like.
5. Cut the other half of the paper the same width of your wallet but ¾ of the height.
6. Glue the outside and bottom edges of this paper to the inside of the wallet leaving the top open.
7. Write the hadith from the lesson on the inside pocket of the wallet.



All Rizq
is from Allah (swt)



When someone is good to his/her family,
Allah (swt) gives him/her more sustenance!
-Imam Jafar as-Sadiq

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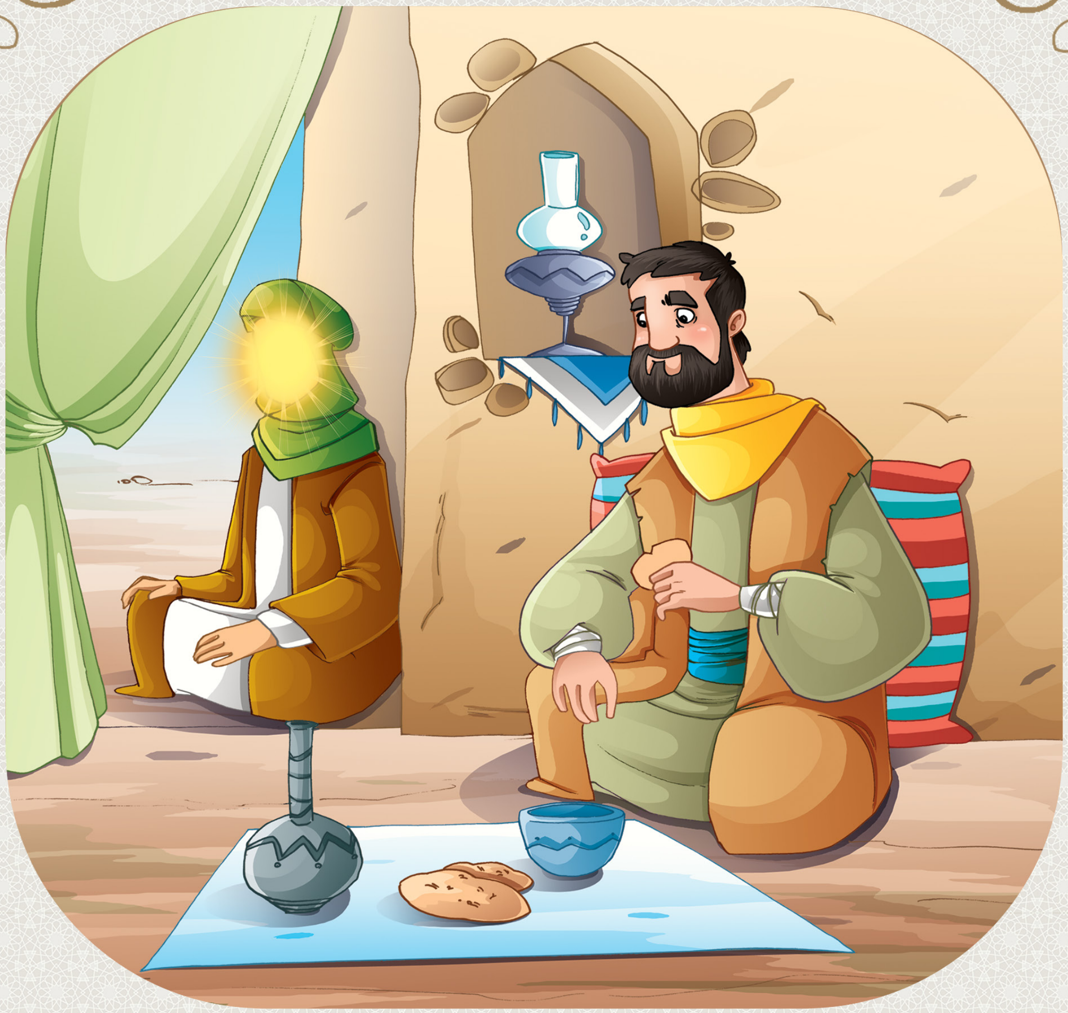
Lesson 7: Feed Others

(taken from *The Guiding Light* book 7, lesson 2)



وَ يُؤْثِرُونَ عَلَى أَنْفُسِهِمْ وَ لَوْ كَانَ بِهِمْ خَصَاصَةٌ

They put others before themselves, even though they are in need.

Sūrah al-Ḥashr, Verse 9

There was once a man who had nothing to eat. Knowing that the Prophet (ṣ) was extremely generous, he decided to go and ask him for some help. The Prophet (ṣ) welcomed the man into his home and asked his wife, "Do we have anything to eat?" She replied, "No, all we have is some water to drink."

So, the Prophet (ṣ) returned to the masjid and called out, “Who will give food to this man?” Imām ʿAlī (ʿa) was quick to volunteer. "Let me take him to my house," offered the Imām (ʿa). So, the man followed him to his house.

Sayyidah Fāṭimah (ʿa) was thrilled to have guests since this makes Allah happy, but she told Imām ʿAlī (ʿa), "We only have enough food for one person, so we will give what little food we have to our guest." The Imām (ʿa) smiled and began serving his guest. He then made an excuse to leave the room because he did not want to embarrass his guest since he would be the only one eating.

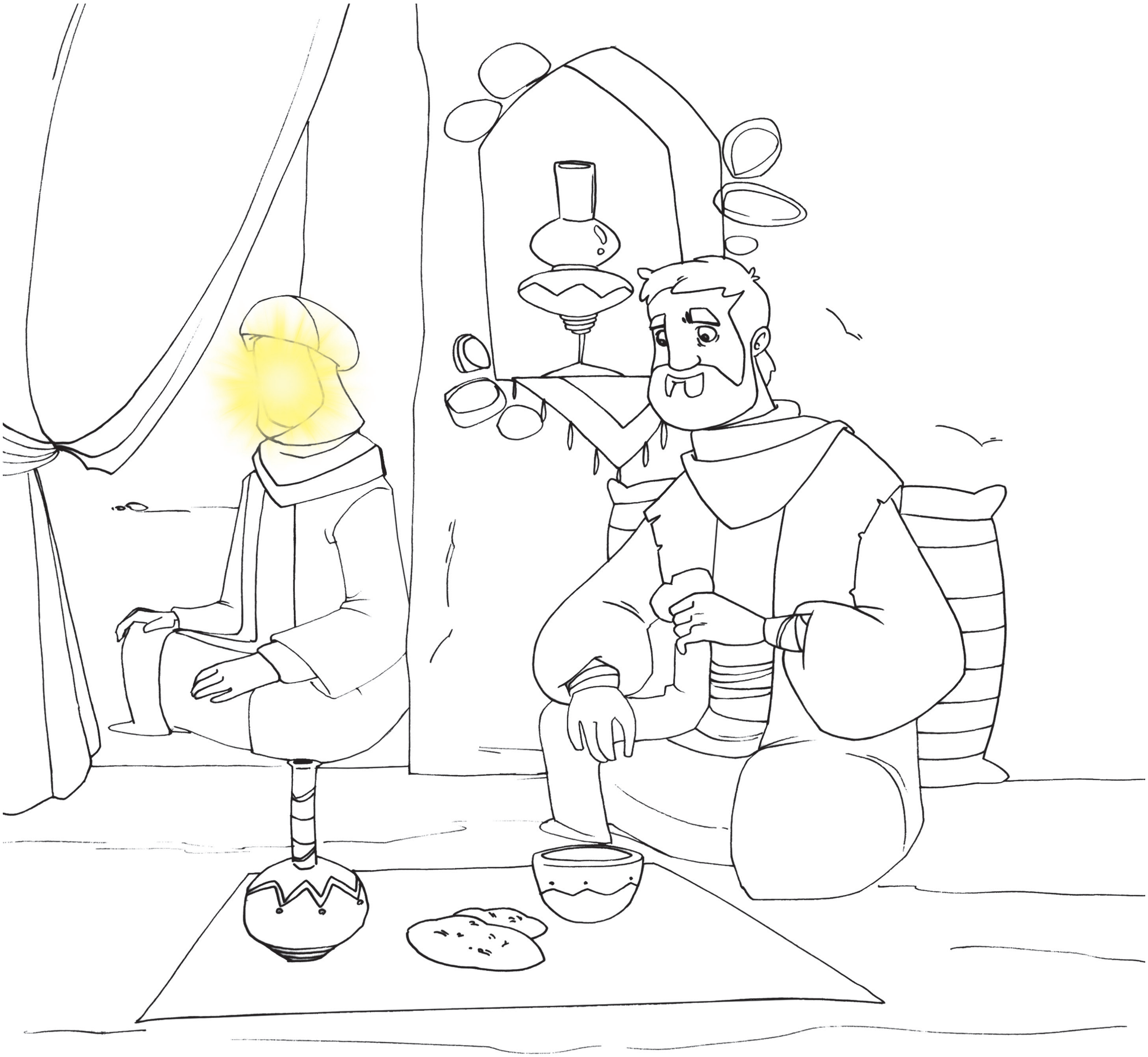
The next morning, when the Imām (ʿa) reached the masjid for ṣalāh, the Prophet (ṣ) came to him and greeted him. Wiping away tears from his eyes, he told him, "The angels were very touched by the way your family treated your guest last night. Because of your hospitality, Allah sent down this verse: ‘They put others before themselves, even though they are also in need.’"

Tafsīr ul-Anwār, Vol. 16, P. 261

إِنَّ اللهَ يُحِبُّ إِطْعَامَ الطَّعَامِ

Imām Muḥammad al-Bāqir (ʿa):
Surely, Allah loves those who feed others.

Biḥār ul-Anwār, Vol. 71, P. 361



Feed Others

Objective: Children will learn about the importance of feeding others.

In Islam it is a highly recommended act to feed others. Imām ʿAlī (ʿa) said, “The nourishment of the body is food whilst the nourishment of the soul is feeding others.” In order for us to grow spiritually we need to make sure that our fellow brothers and sisters in Islam are okay. This way, we can feed our souls (with good deeds) by feeding the bellies of others.

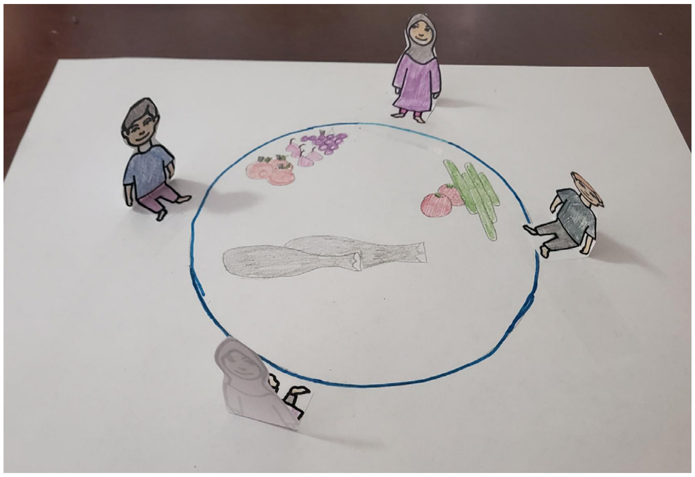
One way we can care about others is through giving charity in the form of food. This can be at your local food banks, sharing food with family and friends, as well as inviting others over to share food together. Sitting around a table to eat from the same meal is something that is recommended in Islam and can be the first step towards feeding others.

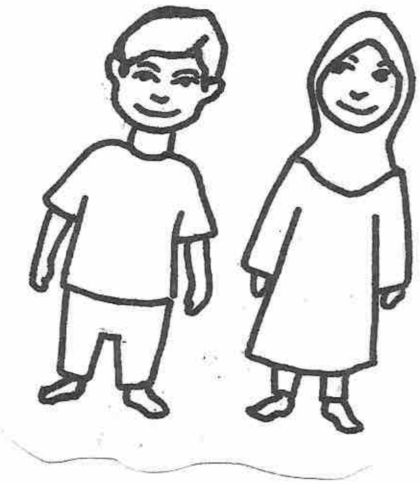
Suggested Ages: 5+

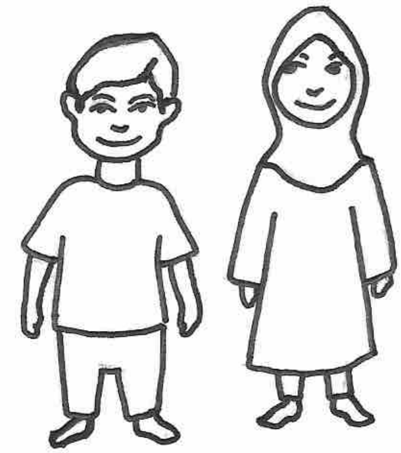
Time: 30 minutes

Materials:
- Glue or tape
- Colored pencils
- Scissors
- Sheet or paper
- Character template

Procedure:
1. On a white piece of paper, draw a large circle in the middle. Cut out the circle
2. In the circle, draw a meal. This could be your favorite food, or something you like to eat during Ramaḍān.
3. Color the picture you drew.
4. Color and cut out each person in the template.
5. Fold each person on the line to create the image that they are sitting.
6. Tape or glue each person around the plate to look like they are sitting around the plate.







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Lesson 8: Always Thank Allah

(taken from *The Guiding Light* book 7, lesson 3)

لَئِنْ شَكَرْتُمْ لَأَزِيدَنَّكُمْ

If you are thankful (for the blessings I
give you), then I will give you more.

Sūrah Ibrāhīm, Verse 7

One day, Imām aṣ-Ṣādiq (ʿa) was taking a walk when he came across a poor man sitting on the side of the street. The man was very thin and had sad eyes. He looked up and said, "I am needy. Please help me!" When the Imām (ʿa) offered him some grapes, he stubbornly refused. "I don't want grapes!" he complained, shaking his head. "I want money!" he moaned. He was so ungrateful!

The Imām (ʿa) continued walking down the street until he came across another poor man, who cried out, "O son of the Prophet! I am needy. Please help me!"

The Imām (ʿa) gave the man three grapes. "Alḥamdulillāh! All thanks is for Allah!" he said gratefully.

After hearing the poor man's reply, the Imām (ʿa) gave him two handfuls of grapes. "Alḥamdulillāh! All thanks is for Allah!" said the poor man once again.

The Imām (ʿa) was happy to see how grateful the man was, so he gave him a gold coin. The poor man took the coin in his hand and said more excitedly, "Alḥamdulillāh! Thank you Allah for everything! All blessings come from You; there is no god except You!"

Hearing this, the Imām (ʿa) gave him a bag full of gold coins. "O son of the Prophet," he said. "Thank you so much!"

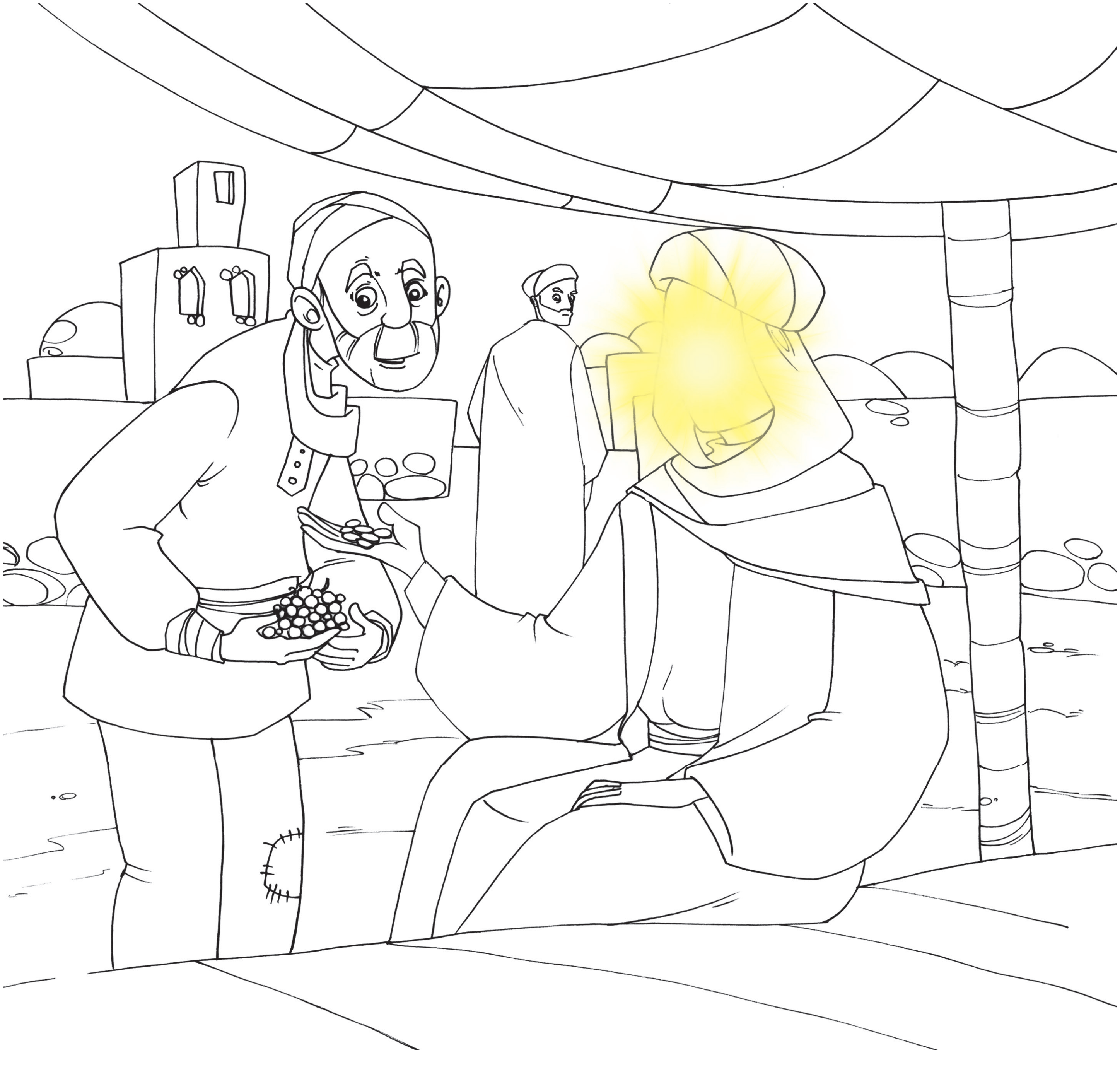
"You're welcome," replied the Imām, noticing that this time, there was no mention of Allah. "I swear to Allah that if you had continued to thank Allah even until tomorrow, I would have given you all of my wealth!"

Biḥār ul-Anwār, Vol. 4, P. 49

إِذَا أَكَلْتَ أَوْ شَرِبْتَ فَقُلْ: أَلْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ

Imām Jaʿfar aṣ-Ṣādiq (ʿa):
Whenever you eat or drink, say “Alḥamdulillāh”
(all praise is for Allah).

Biḥār ul-Anwār, Vol. 66, P. 374



Always Thank Allah

Objective: Children will learn the importance of thanking Allah.

One of the most important things that we learn in Islam is about gratitude. Being thankful in Islam is important for many reasons. It shows that we appreciate what the people around us do for us. It is not only that we should be thankful to our family, friends, and community members, but we need to always be thankful for the many blessings from Allah. When we are thankful to Allah, He will reward us with more than we could want.

Allah tells us in Sūrah Ibrāhīm, verse 7, “If you are thankful (for the blessings that I give you), then I will give you more.” Sometimes it can be hard for us to recognize and appreciate the blessings from Allah, but we need to try our hardest to always be thankful. We can do this by: remembering the many things Allah has blessed us with, using these blessings appropriately, and saying thank you.

Suggested Ages: 5+

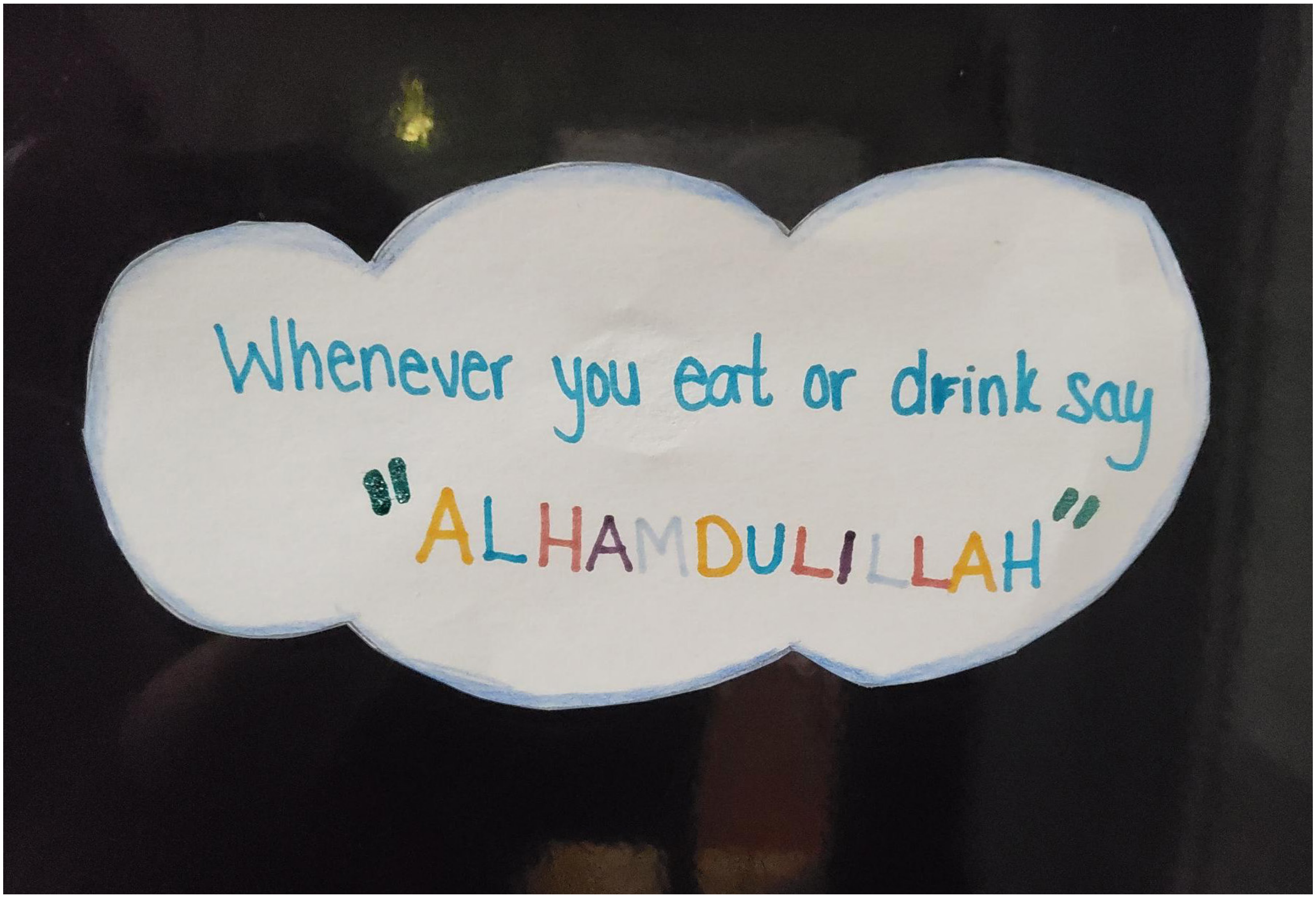
Time: 40 minutes

Materials:

- Glue gun
- White Cardstock
- Magent
- Markers
- Scissors
- Pencil

Procedure:

1. With a pencil draw a cloud on the cardstock.
2. Cut out the cloud.
3. In the middle of the cloud, write the ayah “Whenever you eat or drink, say Alḥamdulillāh.”
4. Go over the writing in the middle with a marker to make it bold.
5. Decorate and color your cloud.
6. With the help of an adult, glue the magnet to the back of the cloud. Let it dry before use.



Whenever you eat or drink say
"ALHAMDULILLAH"

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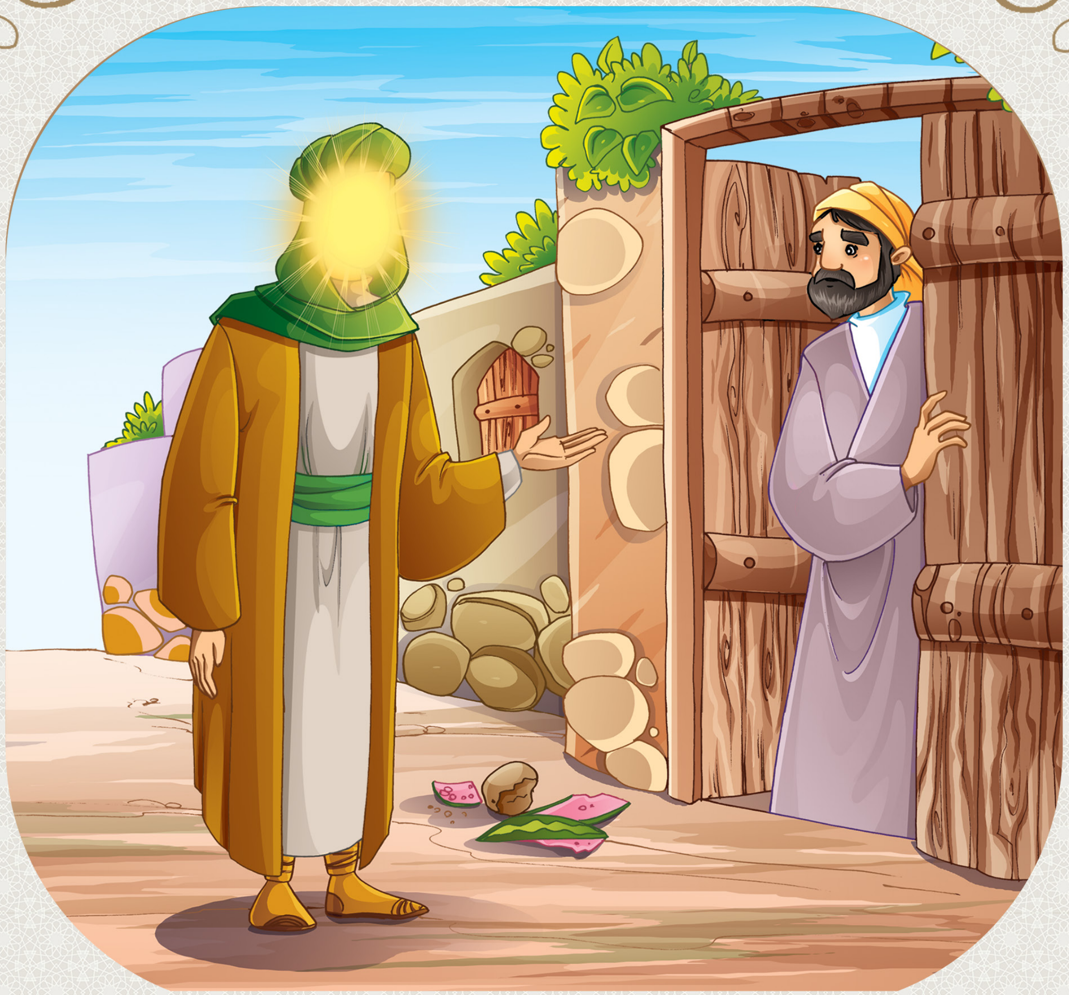
Lesson 9: Use Your Blessings Properly

(taken from *The Guiding Light* book 7, lesson 4)



كُلُوا وَاشْرَبُوا وَ لَا تُسْرِفُوا

Eat and drink, but do not waste.

Sūrah al-Aʿrāf, Verse 31

One day, Imām aṣ-Ṣādiq (ʿa) was walking home from the masjid when he saw a half-eaten fruit lying on the ground in front of someone's house. Just then, a man walked out of that same house. He gave his salāms to the Imām (ʿa), and the Imām (ʿa) replied with a warm salām.

"Where did this piece of fruit come from?" asked the Imām (ʿa).

"It came from my house," the man mumbled, feeling a little guilty.

The Imām (ʿa) was sad to hear this. "But why?" he asked with a worried look in his eyes.

The man kept his head down in shame.

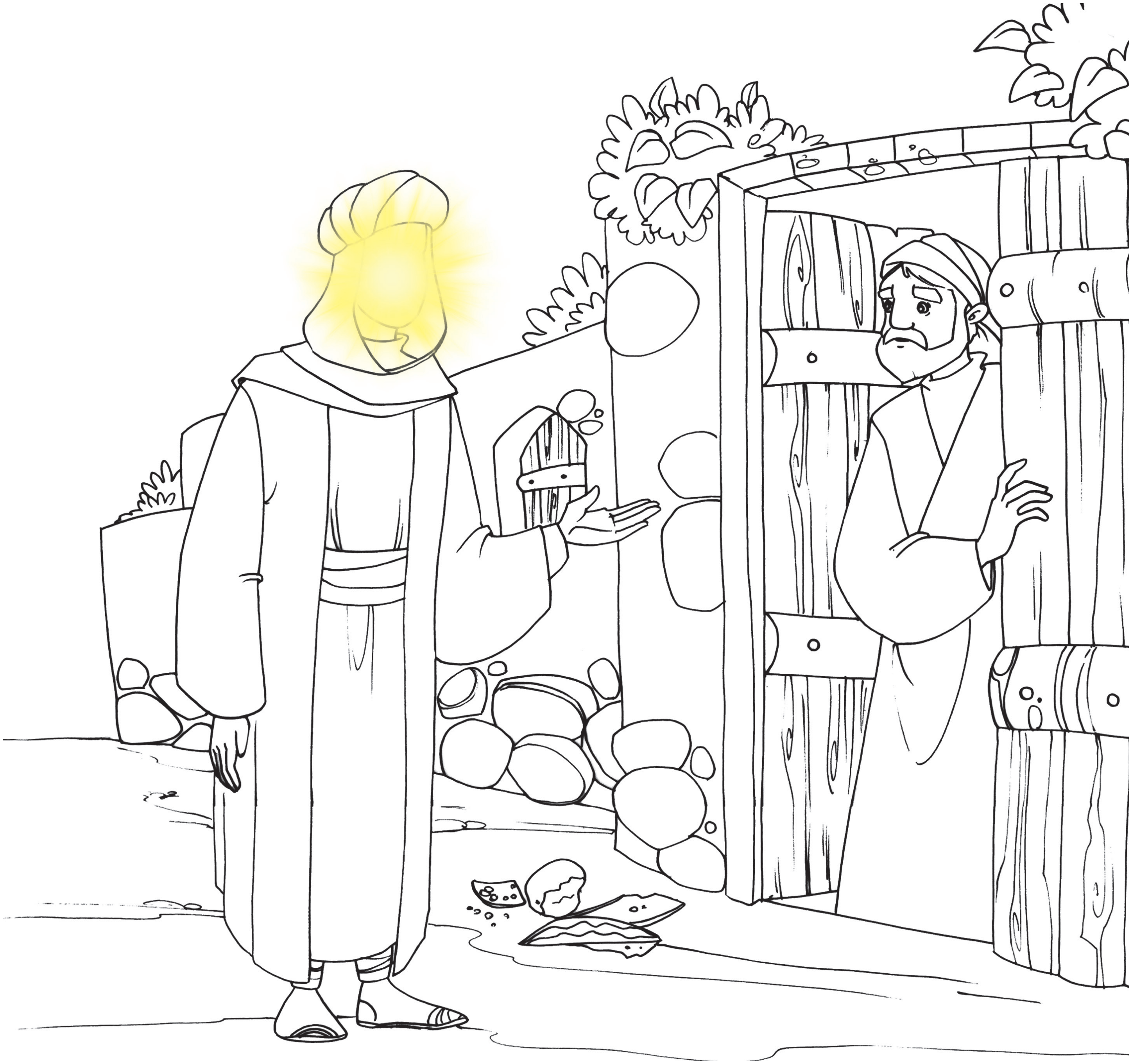
"If you have more food than you need, you can give it to the poor," said the Imām (ʿa) with a gentle voice. "It's not right to throw food away when there are people out there who don't have enough to eat."

Biḥār ul-Anwār, Vol. 63, P. 432

مَنْ أَسْرَفَ زَالَتْ عَنْهُ النِّعْمَةِ

Imām Mūsā al-Kāẓim (ʿa):
When someone wastes a blessing, it may disappear.

Tuḥaf ul-ʿUqūl, P. 301



Use Your Blessings Properly

Objective: Students will learn about not wasting food and other blessings.

When we want or need something, we pray to Allah to give us that thing, for He is our Provider. Even if we don't ask Allah for something, He will still give it to us. These are blessings, and there are certain manners for how to use those blessings. For example, food is a very vital blessing needed for survival. We should use the food we have properly, and not waste it. As mentioned in the ḥadīth from Imām Mūsā al-Kāẓim (ʿa), when we waste a blessing, we may lose it. This means that if we don't appreciate and use the blessings in the right way, it may be taken away from us.

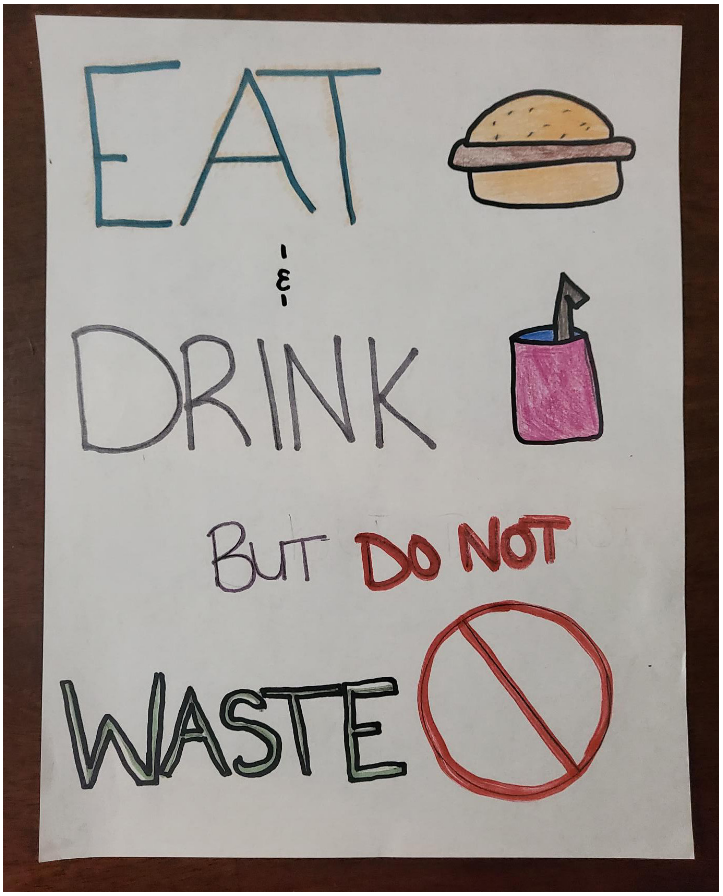
So how can we use our blessings properly, especially if we have more than we need? In the story we read earlier, what did Imām aṣ-Ṣādiq (ʿa) tell the man to do with the food he didn't need? He said the man could give the food to the poor people who don't have enough to eat. This is one way we can use our blessings in the right way. Today, we are going to make a craft that will help remind us and our loved ones to not waste food, one of the most important blessings.

Suggested Ages: 5+

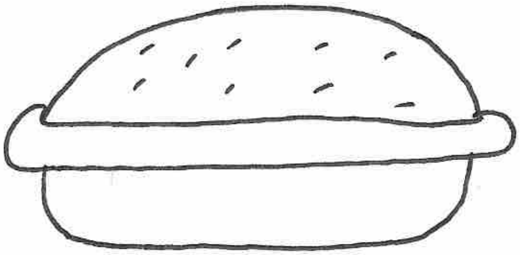
Time: 40 minutes

Materials:
- Social poster template
- Colored pencils
- Markers
- Construction paper
- Glue

Procedure:
1. Color the social poster template.
2. Cut the template and glue it in the middle of the construction paper.
3. Write the hadith from the lesson at the bottom.
4. Hang your social poster to remind your family and friends not to waste!

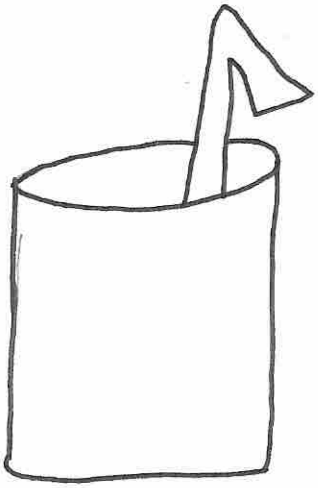


EAT



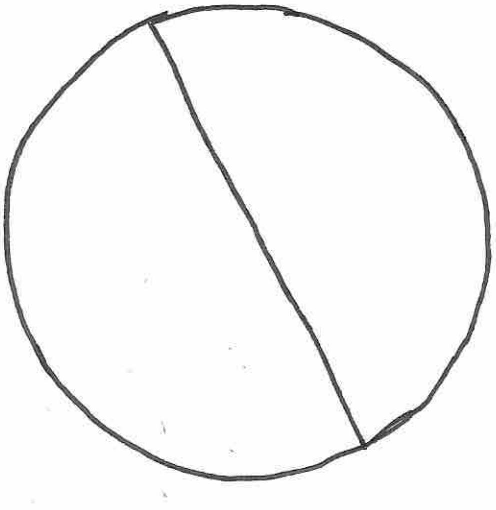
&

DRINK



BUT DO NOT

WASTE



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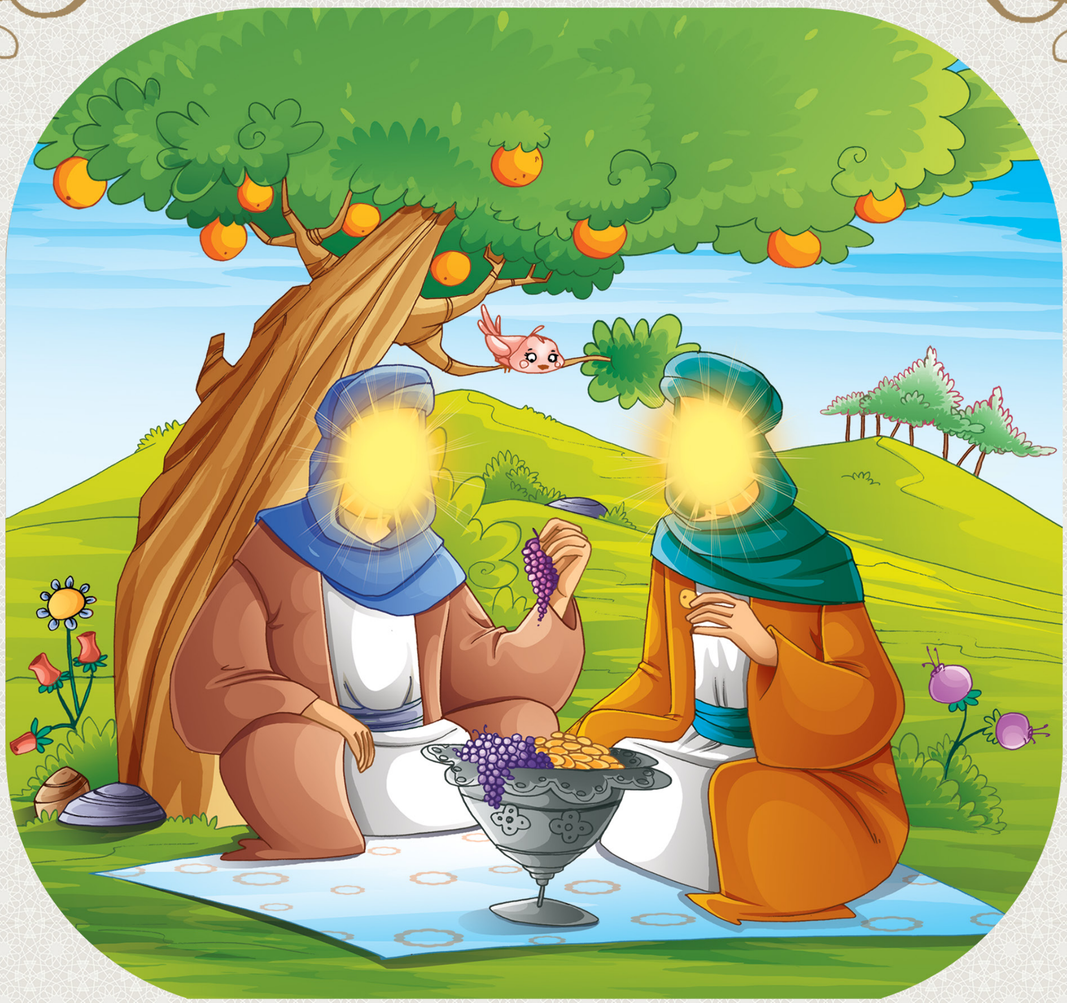
Lesson 10: Eat Fresh Fruits

(taken from *The Guiding Light* book 7, lesson 5)



كُلُوا مِنْ ثَمَرِهِ إِذَآ أَثْمَرَ

Eat fruits when they are ripe.

Sūrah al-Anʿām, Verse 141

One hot summer day, Prophet Muḥammad (ṣ) was passing through an oasis with Imām ʿAlī (ʿa). After spotting a large tree, they decided to rest under it.

While they were busy talking to each other, a heavenly bowl appeared in front of them. The beautiful bowl was made of gold and decorated with precious stones. When they looked carefully, they saw that it was filled with fresh grapes and juicy dates.

After thanking Allah for this special gift, they began eating from the bowl. Soon after they were finished eating, the bowl disappeared back into the heavens.

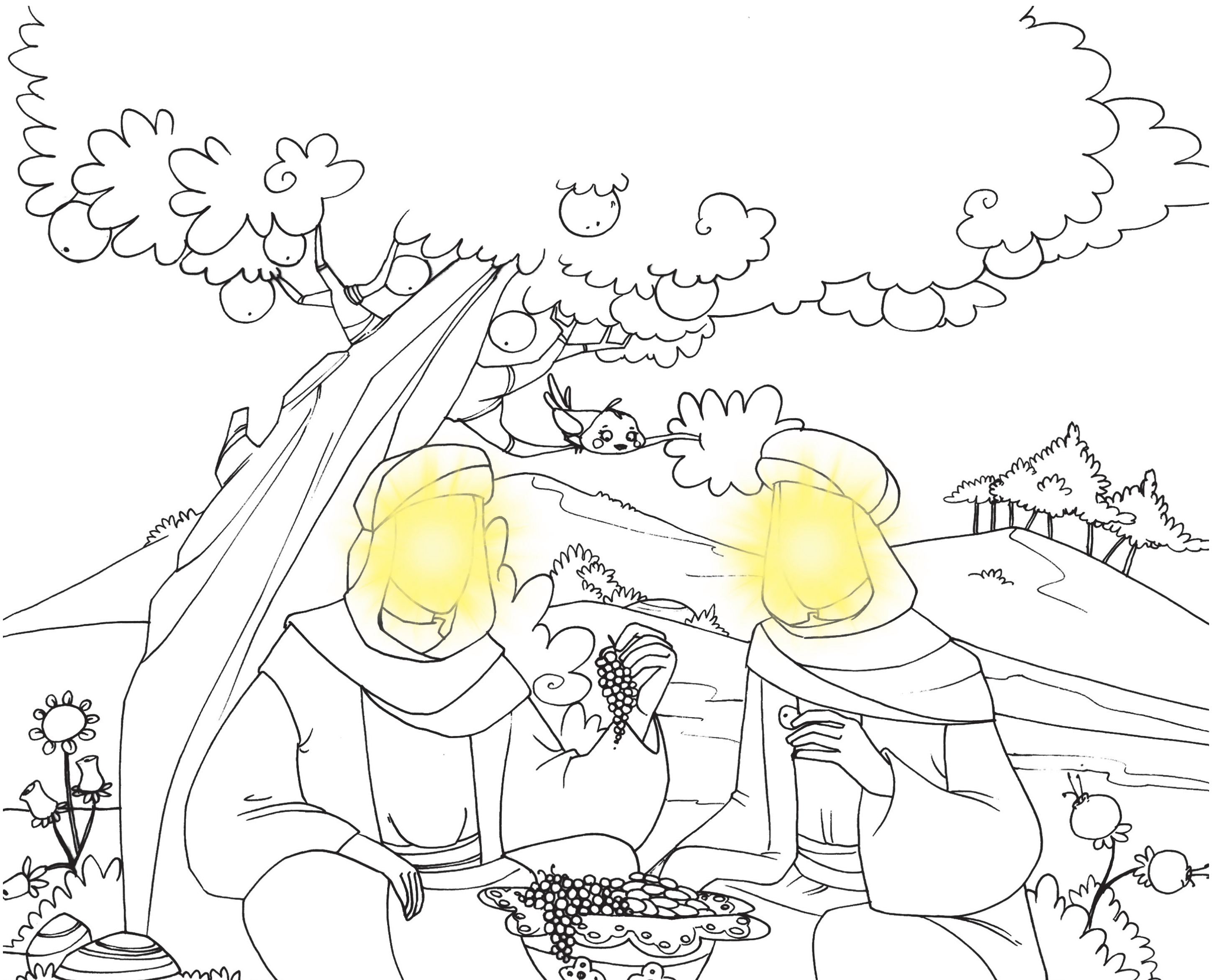
The Maʿsūmīn (ʿa) have advised us to eat fresh fruits like figs, pears, and pomegranates, which are good for our health. *Alḥamdulillāh*, Allah has blessed us with so many delicious fruits to choose from!

Biḥār ul-Anwār, Vol. 39, P. 128, Ḥadīth #16

إِنَّ لِكُلِّ ثَمَرَةٍ سَمًّا فَمَسُّوهَا بِالْمَاءِ

Imām Jaʿfar aṣ-Ṣādiq (ʿa):
Wash your fruits [so you don’t get sick].

Al-Kāfī, Vol. 60, Ḥadīth #4

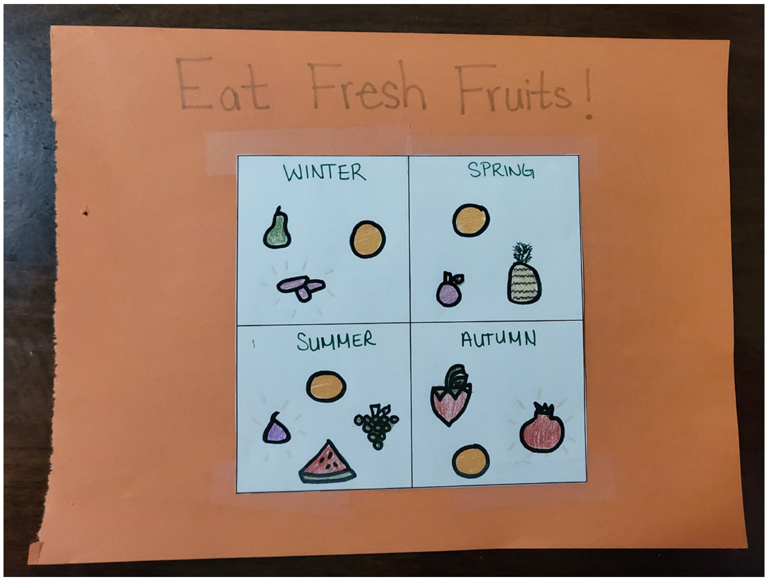


Eat Fresh Fruits

Objective: Students will learn about the benefits and manners of eating fruits.

In the previous lesson, we talked about the importance of using our blessings properly, and one of the blessings that was mentioned was food. As we know, food is a necessity, or something we need in order to survive. There are so many kinds of food to eat, and each has their own benefits. It is especially important to eat fruits. Fruits are one of the main sources of the vitamins and minerals we need to grow and be healthy.

Some fruits were mentioned in the story we read earlier. While they were resting by the tree, Prophet Muḥammad (ṣ) and Imām ʿAlī (ʿa) were sent a large bowl of grapes and dates. Dates boost your energy, which is why they are recommended to eat when opening your fast. Some other fruits that were mentioned include figs, pears, and pomegranates. There are so many kinds of fruits, and today, we are going to do an activity that will teach us which fruits are good for each season.



Suggested Ages: 5+

Time: 40 minutes

Materials:
- Template
- Scissors
- Glue
- Colored pencils

Procedure:
1. Go to the following website and look at the fruit vs season reference chart https://www.berries.com/blog/what-fruits-are-in-season
2. On the provided template label the 4 seasons in each quadrant
3. Choose 3-4 fruits in each category
4. Draw and color each fruit
5. Highlight the fruits that are mentioned in the Qurʾān.
6. Cut out the template and glue it to a piece of construction paper to make a background
7. Label the picture “Eat Fresh Fruits.”

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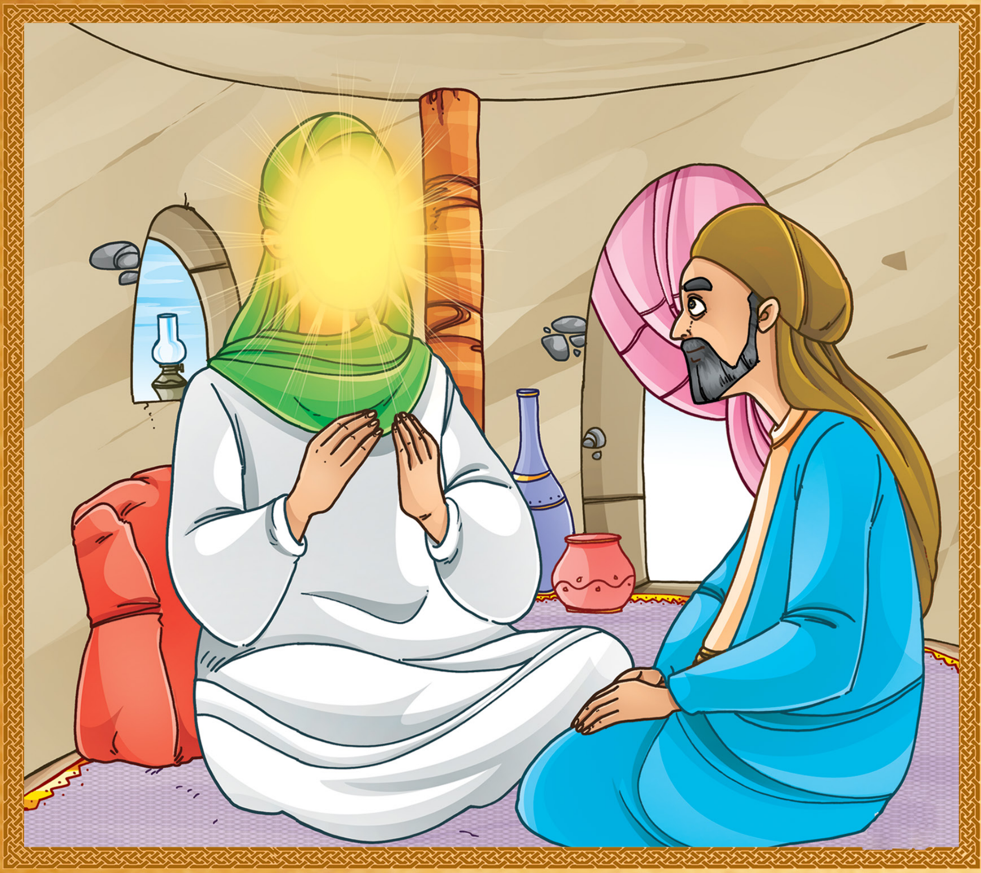
Lesson 11: Importance of Ṣalāh

(taken from *The Guiding Light* book 8, lesson 1)



حَافِظُوا عَلَى الصَّلَوَاتِ

Be mindful of your prayers.

Sūrah al-Baqarah, Verse 238

One day, as Prophet Muḥammad (ṣ) was sitting with one of his closest friends, he told him, "You've done so much for me over these past seven years. I'd like to give you a gift. What would you like me to give you?"

The man felt extremely honored! "O Prophet of Allah," he replied. "Please give me some time to think about it."

The next day, the man returned to the Prophet (ṣ) and said, "After thinking about it for a long time, I now know what I want. Please ask Allah to make me your neighbor in Heaven!"

The Prophet (ṣ) was surprised and asked, “How did you come up with this wish? Did someone teach it to you?”

“No,” said the man. “Well, I was thinking about what I could ask for. I soon realized that everything in this world will disappear one day, so no matter how much money I may have, it won’t last forever. That’s when I decided to wish for something much more special that will last forever!”

The Prophet (ṣ) smiled and said, "I'll pray that Allah grants your wish." He then paused and said, "I also want to give you some advice." The man was all ears, ready to soak in everything that the Prophet (ṣ) was about to tell him. He knew very well that any time the Prophet (ṣ) spoke, he said the wisest things.

"Besides loving me and doing good deeds," advised the Prophet (ṣ), "You should also give special attention to your ṣalāh, especially sujūd!"

Biḥār ul-Anwār, Vol. 3

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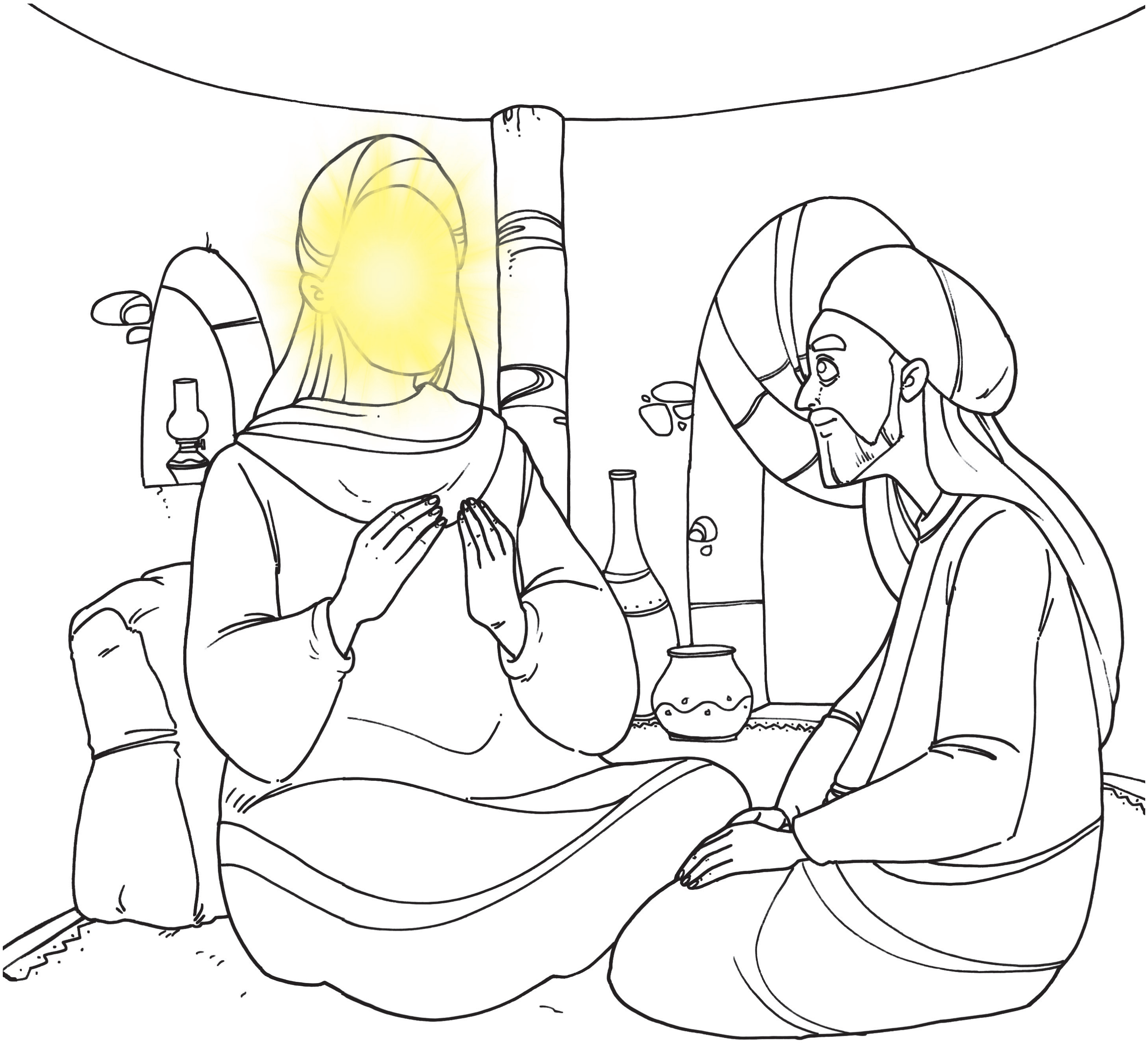
أَلصَّلاَةُ مِفْتَاحُ الْجَنَّةِ

Prophet Muḥammad (ṣ):
Ṣalāh is the key to Heaven.

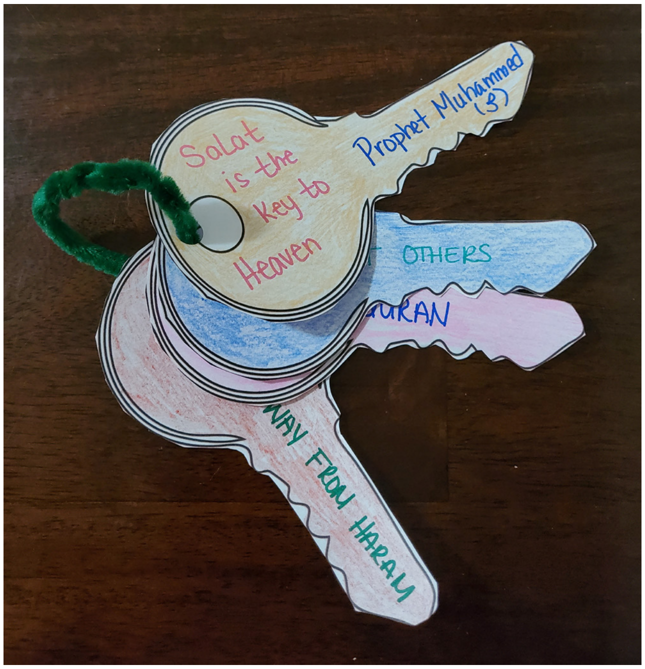
Nahj ul-Faṣāḥah, Ḥadīth #1588



Importance of Ṣalāh

Objective: Students will learn about the importance of praying ṣalāh.

> We've talked about the kinds of food we need in order to be physically healthy, especially fruits. Just like we feed our physical bodies with good foods, it is important for us to take care of our souls. Imām Ḥasan (ʿa) has said, "I wonder why people are careful about choosing food for their bodies, but are not careful about the [spiritual] food they feed their souls." So what is the spiritual food that we can feed our souls in order for it to grow strong and healthy?
>
> One of the first and most important acts we can do that will make our spiritual health stronger is offering ṣalāh. As stated by Prophet Muḥammad (ṣ), ṣalāh is the key to Heaven. In the story we read earlier, the Noble Prophet (ṣ) had advised his friend that in addition to loving the Ahl al-Bayt and doing good deeds, to also pray ṣalāh. Today, we are going to make a craft that will show us some of the important key acts we should do in order to get to Heaven, inshāʾAllāh.

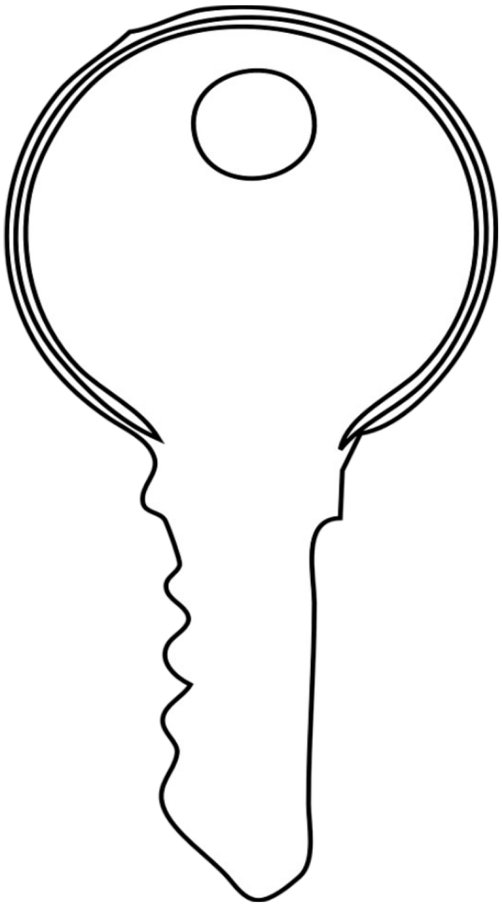
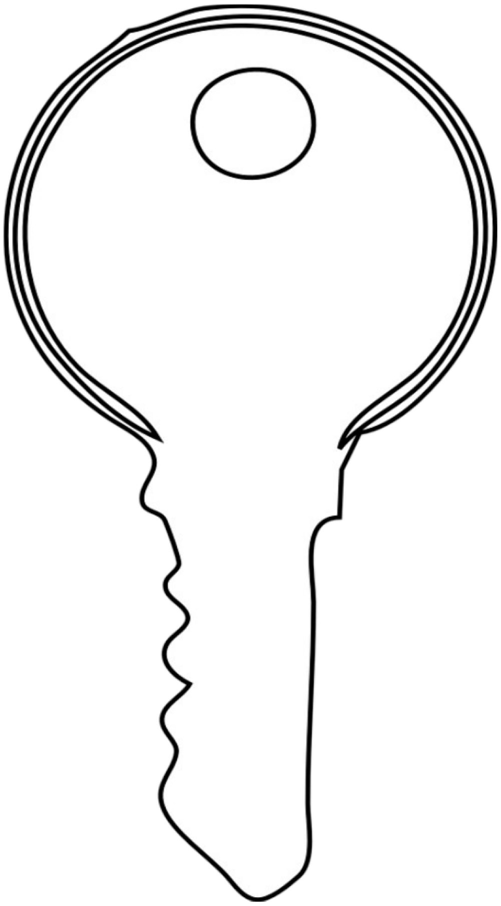
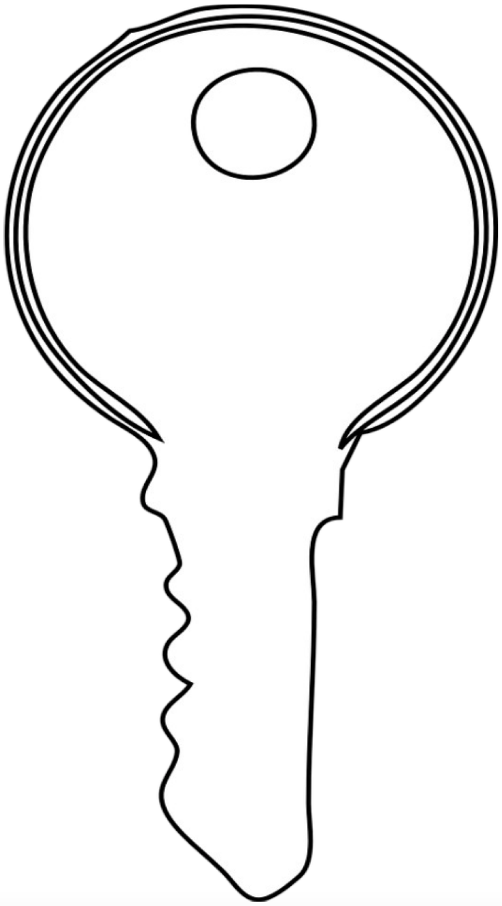
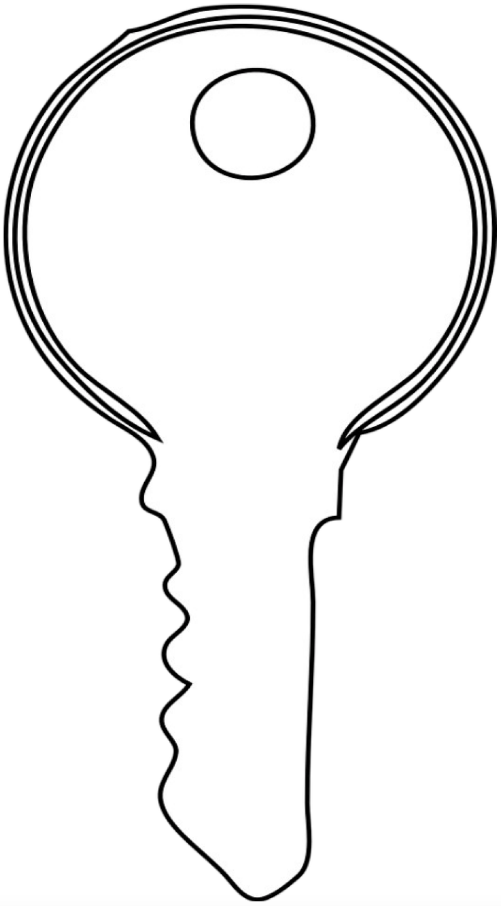


Suggested Ages: 5+

Time: 40 minutes

Materials:
- Construction paper
- Hole punch
- Key template
- String or ribbon
- Scissors
- Glue
- Markers

Procedure:
1. Print and cut out 3 key template.
2. Color each key template a different color. Write the ḥadīth from the lesson on one of the keys.
3. On the remaining keys, write what acts we should do in order to get to Heaven, inshāʾAllāh.
4. Hole punch the top circle of every key.
5. Loop the string through all the holes on the top of the keys and tie the string together to keep all the keys together.

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Lesson 12: Importance of Reciting Qurʾān

(taken from *The Guiding Light* book 8, lesson 2)

فَاقْرَؤُا مَا تَيَسَّرَ مِنَ الْقُرْءَانِ

As much as you can, read from the Qurʾān.

Sūrah al-Muzzammil, Verse 20

One afternoon, the Prophet (ṣ) was sitting in a gathering with many people. He was always trying to find the right time to teach people something useful. Now happened to be one of those moments. He greeted everyone in the room and then asked, "Which one of you fasts every single day, stays up all night praying, and recites the entire Qurʾān everyday?"

There was pin drop silence as everyone looked at each other puzzled. Finally, one man with a strange accent broke the silence. "I do," he said with a smile.

Everyone turned around to see who would say such a thing. "It's Salmān, the Persian," someone whispered.

Everyone was shocked, and a few men were almost exploding with anger. "There are so many times when we've seen him eat during the day! We've also seen him sleep on most nights, and we've never seen him recite Qurʾān for the entire day!" complained one of the men to the Prophet (ṣ). "So how could he possibly do everything you said?"

"Why don't you ask him yourself?" the Prophet (ṣ) calmly replied.

The man turned to Salmān and repeated the same questions. "So tell us," he raised his voice. "How is that even possible?"

Salmān smiled and answered with confidence. "I fast for three days each month," he began. "Allah tells us in the Qurʾān that if we do one good deed, He will give us ten times the reward," he continued.

Three times ten is thirty, and that's equal to a month, the men calculated in their heads.

"Okay, but what about staying up all night in prayer? We've seen you sleep many nights," said the same man, this time with less force.

"Well," Salmān said. "I once heard my dear Prophet say that when someone goes to sleep with wuḍūʾ, it's like they're worshipping Allah the entire night. And I sleep with wuḍūʾ every night. As for reading the whole Qurʾān everyday," continued Salmān, "I once heard RasūlAllāh say that if someone reads Sūrah al-Ikhlāṣ three times, it's like they have read the entire Qurʾān. And I read Sūrah al-Ikhlāṣ three times everyday."

The man was stunned and speechless. Meanwhile, the Prophet (ṣ) was very pleased with Salmān. "How merciful is Allah!" some of the people thought to themselves as tears began to well up in their eyes. "He multiplies the little we do and gives us so much hope in becoming better people." They then prayed that they could one day reach that high level.

Biḥār ul-Anwār, Vol.2

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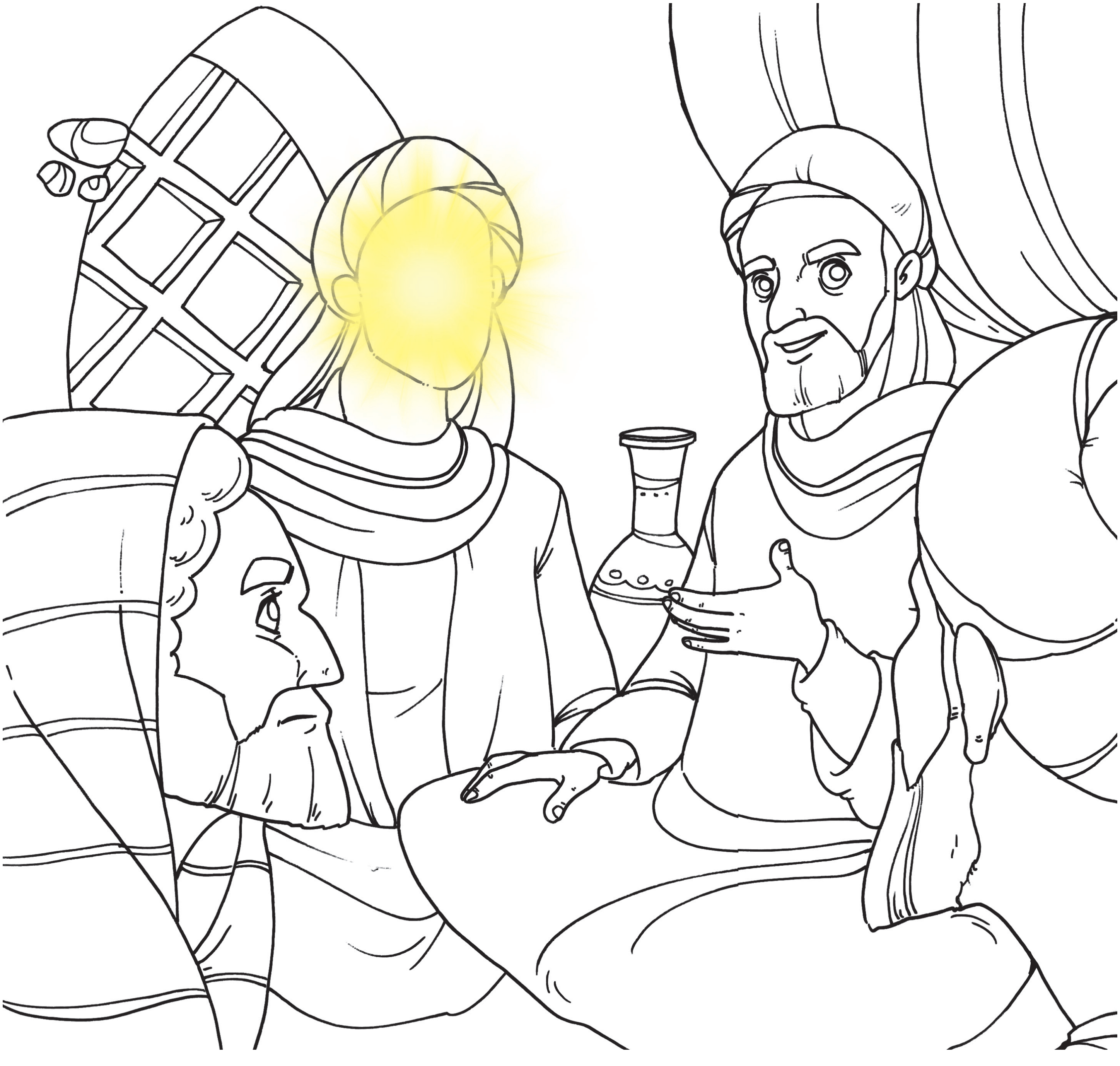
إِذَا أَحَبَّ أَحَدُكُمْ أَنْ يُحَدِّثَ رَبَّهُ فَلْيَقْرَءِ الْقُرْآنَ

Prophet Muḥammad (ṣ):

Whenever you would like to speak to your Lord, read from the Qurʾān.

Kanz ul-ʿUmmāl, Vol. 1, P. 510



Importance of Reciting Qurʾān

Objective: Students will learn about the importance of reciting the Qurʾān.

In the story, we learned that sometimes, Allah multiplies our good deeds. This means that sometimes we can get the reward of something even when we do less. For example, reciting Sūrah al-Ikhlāṣ 3 times is like reading the entire Qurʾān. What does this show? Well, Allah gives us so many opportunities to get thawāb, even for doing the smallest act of worship, because He wants us to succeed in doing good. This doesn't mean that we should not do more, that we don't have to read the Qurʾān. It just means that we can still benefit from the great reward of worship in times when we may not have time to do a lot of ʿibādah.

There are other instances, such as certain times in the year, when we can earn extra rewards. In the month of Ramaḍān, the thawāb for any acts of worship or good deeds that we do is multiplied. In a ḥadīth, it says the Qurʾān makes the heart alive, like water for the soul. One of the most highly recommended acts to do in the month of Ramaḍān is reciting the Qurʾān. Today, we are going to make a craft that will remind us to recite the Qurʾān as much as possible, and to do other acts to gain thawāb and nearness to Allah.

Suggested Ages: 5+

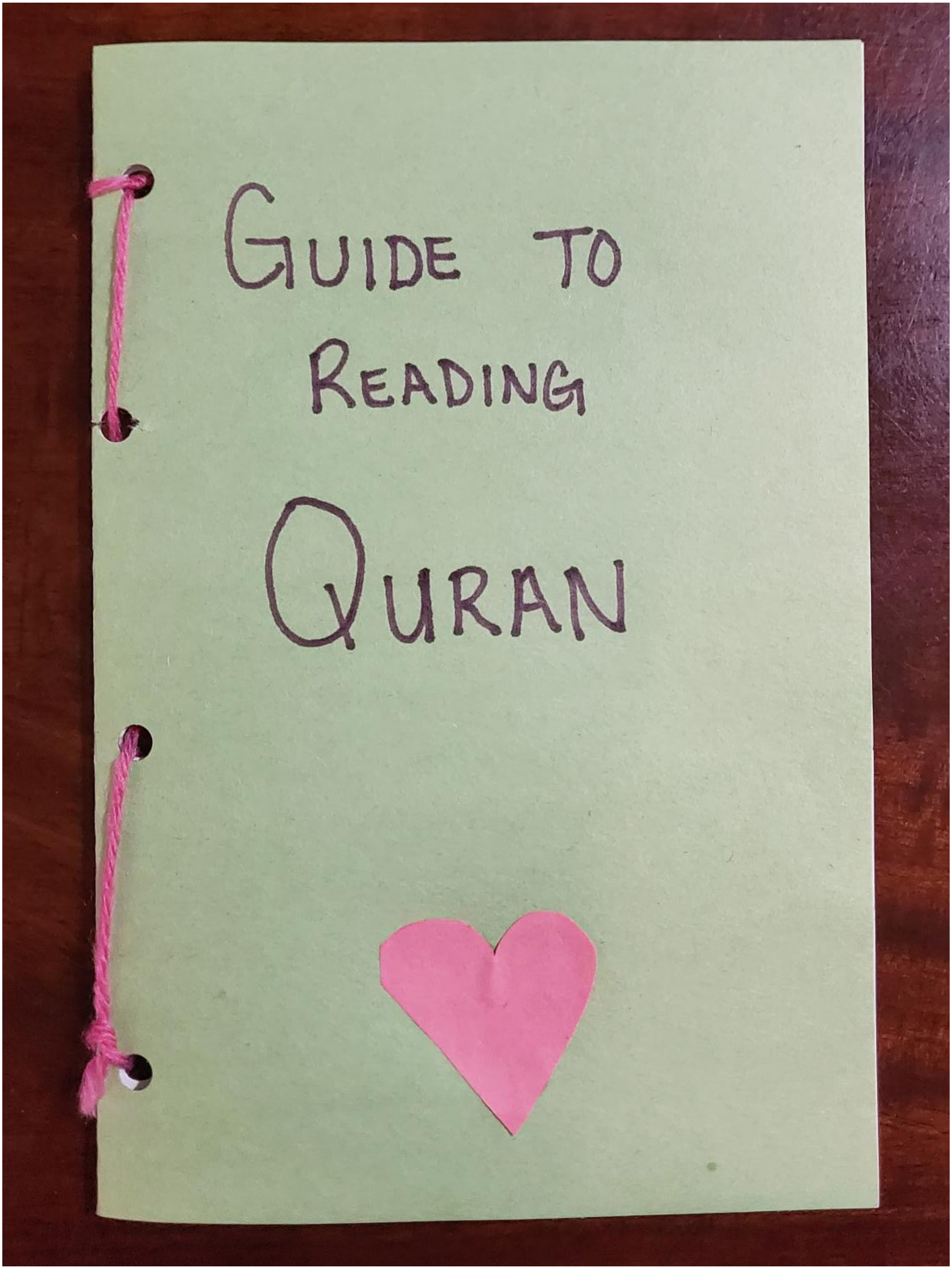
Time: 40 minutes

Materials:

- 2 sheets of paper in any color
- Scissors
- Markers
- Stapler
- Hole puncher
- String

Procedure:

1. Cut the paper to any size of your choice to make your book.
2. With both sheets together, fold the paper in half.
3. Hole punch the inner "binding" of the book from top to bottom. String the string through the holes to bind the book together. You can also simply staple the paper together along the fold in order to bind the book together.
4. On the cover, create a title page for your book by adding the title "Guide to Reading Qurʾān."
5. Add the special ḥadīth and āyah of the Qurʾān in your book on the pages.
6. On the last page list the mustaḥab actions of reciting the Qurʾān that you learnt in the lesson.



GUIDE TO
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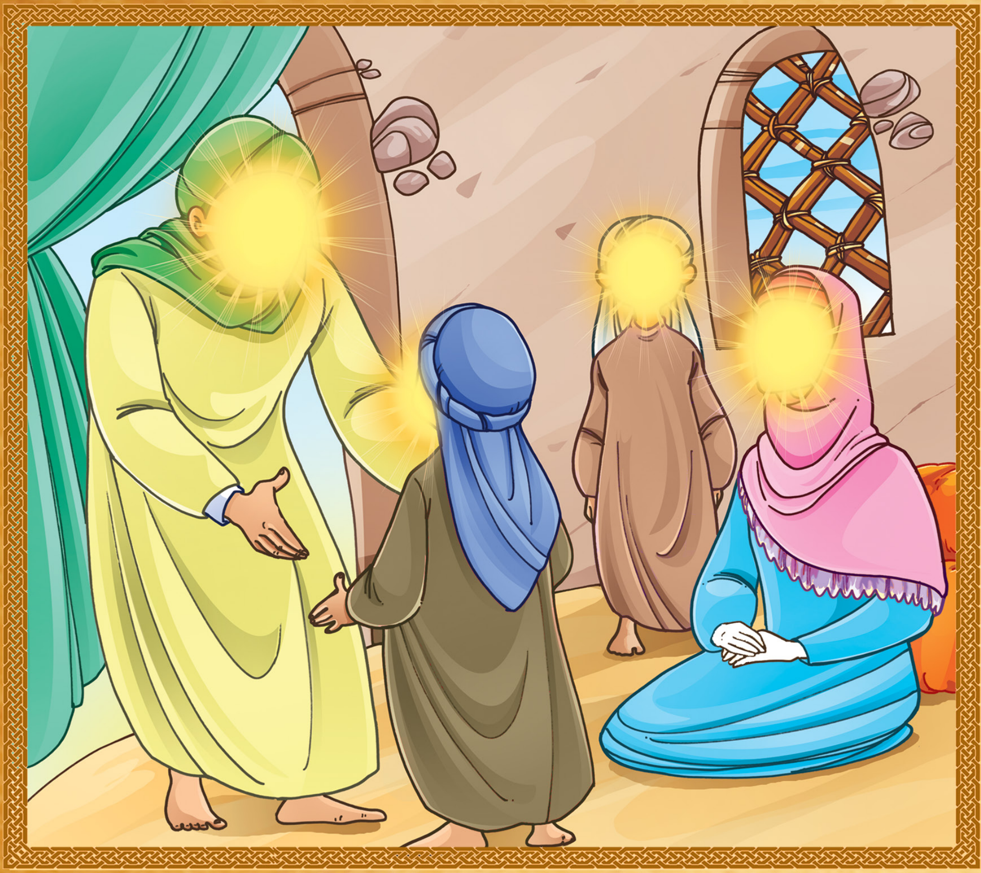
Lesson 13: Importance of Going to the Masjid

(taken from *The Guiding Light* book 8, lesson 3)



وَارْكَعُوا مَعَ الرَّاكِعِينَ

Bow down along with those who bow
(in prayer).

Sūrah al-Baqarah, Verse 43

It was almost prayer time, and Imām Ḥasan (ʿa) was getting ready to go to the masjid. He loved to go to the masjid. Even though he was only seven years old, he would stay after prayer and listen to the Prophet's speeches with all his heart and mind; he would absorb everything he heard and memorize all of the new verses from the Qurʾān. After the speech, he would run back home and tell his mother everything he learned!

When he would explain, Sayyidah Fāṭimah (ʿa) would give him all her attention and listen with great interest and joy. When her husband, Imām ʿAlī (ʿa), would come home, he was always surprised that Sayyidah Fāṭimah (ʿa) knew all about what the Prophet (ṣ) had said in his speeches.

"How do you know all of that?" he asked her one night. She explained that their son would come back from the masjid and tell her everything he learned. Imām ʿAlī (ʿa) was very happy to hear this, and they both felt proud of their son.

The next day, Imām ʿAlī (ʿa) came home earlier than usual so that he could also hear what Imām Ḥasan was going to say. He decided to hide behind the curtain and wait, so he could hear him with his own ears. But when Imām Ḥasan (ʿa) came, he did not explain what he had learned at the masjid. He just stood there, speechless.

His mother was both surprised and worried. "My dear Ḥasan," she said gently. "What's the matter?"

He replied, "I'm at a loss for words because I feel like there is someone more knowledgeable than me in the room."

When Imām ʿAlī (ʿa) heard this, he came out from his hiding place, took his son into his arms, and proudly kissed him. Imām Ḥasan (ʿa) now understood why he was tongue-tied! He knew that Imām ʿAlī (ʿa) was more fit to explain the speech from the masjid.

Biḥār ul-Anwār, Vol.4

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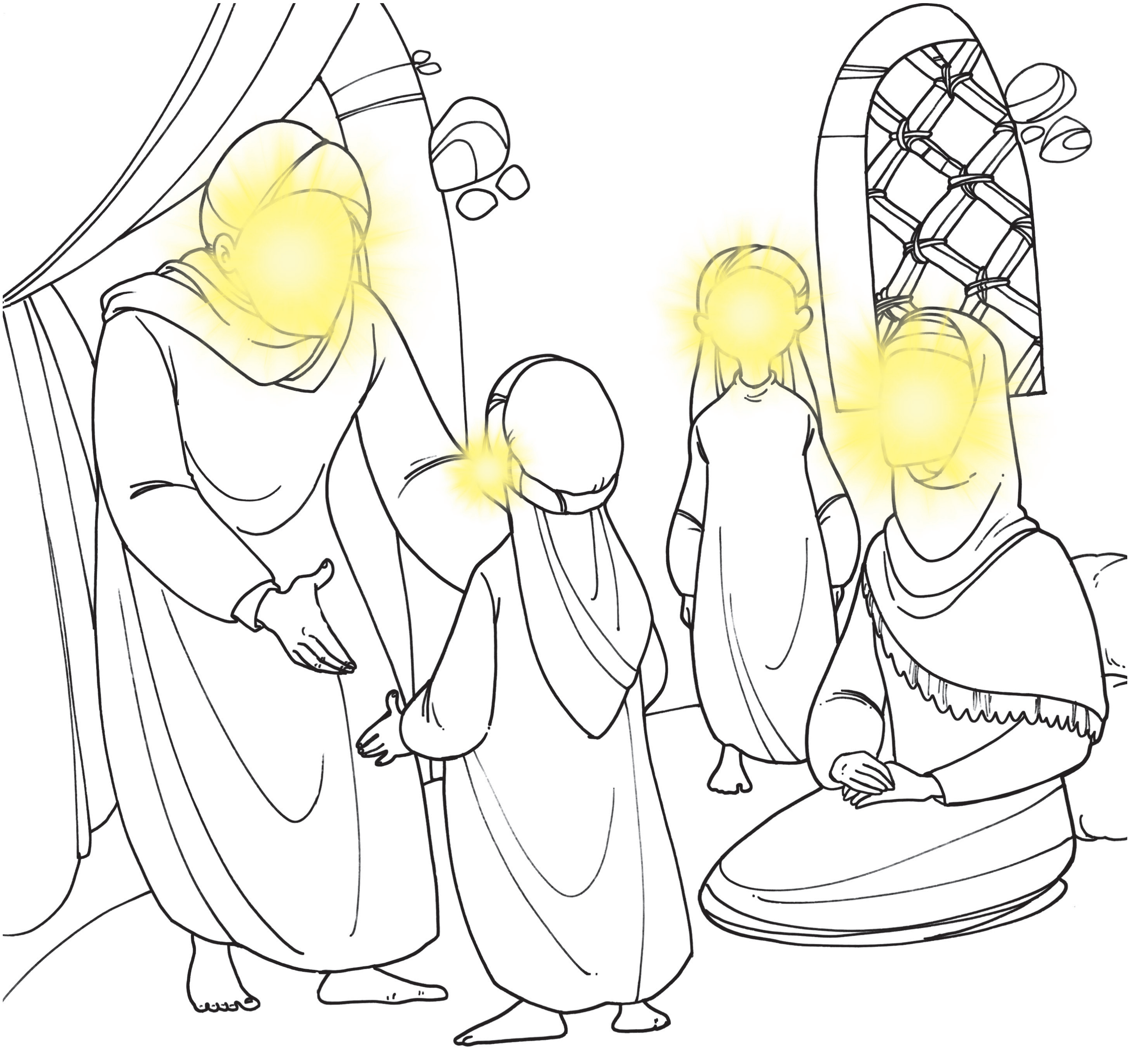
عَلَيْكُمْ بِإِتْيَانِ الْمَسَاجِدِ فَإِنَّهَا بُيُوتُ اللهِ فِي الْأَرْضِ

Imām Jaʿfar aṣ-Ṣādiq (ʿa):
Be sure to go to the masjid on a regular basis, for it is the house of Allah on Earth.

Muntakhab Mīzān al-Ḥikmah, 266



Importance of Going to the Masjid

Objective: Students will learn about the importance of going to the masjid.

During the month of Ramaḍān, one of the main activities we do is gather together with our community to open our fast. This creates a sense of community and strengthens our bonds with each other. The common place where people meet is the masjid. It is highly recommended to go to the masjid, and we can see this in the āyah of the Qurʾān, where it says "bow down along with those who bow down (in prayer)."[1] From this, we can see that meeting with our fellow brothers and sisters in faith and praying with them is beneficial for us individually and as a whole.

Another benefit of going to the masjid is increasing our knowledge. Earlier, we read a story about Imām Ḥasan (ʿa) from when he was a child. After hearing the Noble Prophet's (ṣ) speech at the masjid, he would go home and tell his mother Sayyidah Fāṭimah (ʿa) everything he learned that day. From this, we can see how important it is to share any knowledge we learn from attending programs at the masjid. Discussing these topics with our family helps us understand what was taught in the speeches and spread the knowledge to others. Today, we are going to do a craft that helps create the sense of community within our homes, especially during these times when we may not be able to meet with each other like we'd want to.

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[1] Sūrah al-Baqarah, Verse 43

Suggested Ages: 5+

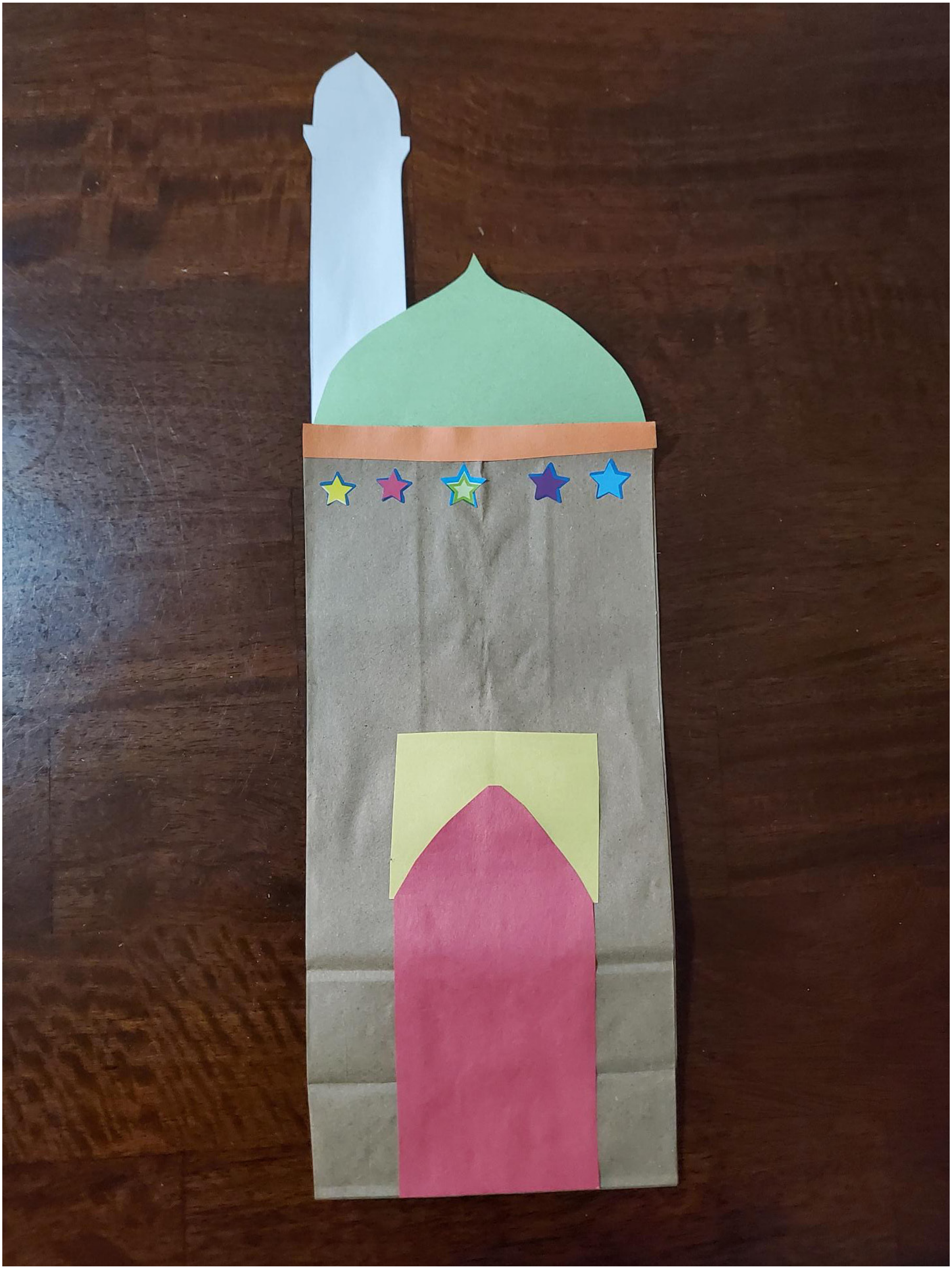
Time: 40 minutes

Materials:

- Construction Paper
- Brown paper bag
- Scissors
- Glue
- Markers

Procedure:

1. Draw and cut out a dome, minaret, and door from the construction paper, if you wish to color the paper bag.
2. Glue the minaret to the top of the paper bag.
3. Glue the door to the front of the paper bag.
4. Glue the dome to the top of the bag to create and finish the mosque.



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Lesson 14: Importance of Loving & Following the Ahl al-Bayt

(taken from *The Guiding Light* book 8, lesson 4)

إِنْ كُنْتُمْ تُحِبُّونَ اللَّهَ فَاتَّبِعُونِي يُحْبِبْكُمُ اللَّهُ

If you love Allah, then follow me (the Prophet), and Allah will love you.

Sūrah Āl-ʿImrān, Verse 31

One hot summer day, the Prophet (ṣ) was traveling outside of Medina with a group of friends. Halfway through their journey, the Prophet (ṣ) noticed that someone was missing from the group. "Where is Abū Dhar?" he asked. After looking back, they realized he was gone and decided to wait for him to catch up.

Abū Dhar had fallen behind the group because his camel was too hot and tired to carry him. "We need to find water," said Abū Dhar to his camel. After searching for a while, he found a small stream of pure, cold water. He bent down and took a handful of water. But after taking a small sip, he dropped the water from his hands and filled his water-pouch instead.

Meanwhile, the rest of the group was still on the lookout. It had been three days since they last saw Abū Dhar. Just as they started to get very worried, one man said excitedly, "Look over there!" They could see someone walking toward them. The other men squinted their eyes to get a better view. "It's him!" someone called out.

Abū Dhar was dragging himself; he was so thirsty that he was losing his balance, about to faint. Seeing that Abū Dhar was exhausted, the Prophet (ṣ) rushed toward him. The Prophet (ṣ) noticed that Abū Dhar had a water pouch with him. "How come you have water with you, but you're still thirsty?" he asked.

Abū Dhar explained how he had found a stream of water. "But after taking a sip of refreshing water," said Abū Dhar, "I just couldn't drink more without first sharing some with my beloved Prophet."

The Prophet (ṣ) looked at him with loving eyes and said, "May Allah have mercy on you!"

Biḥār ul-Anwār, Vol. 21, P. 216

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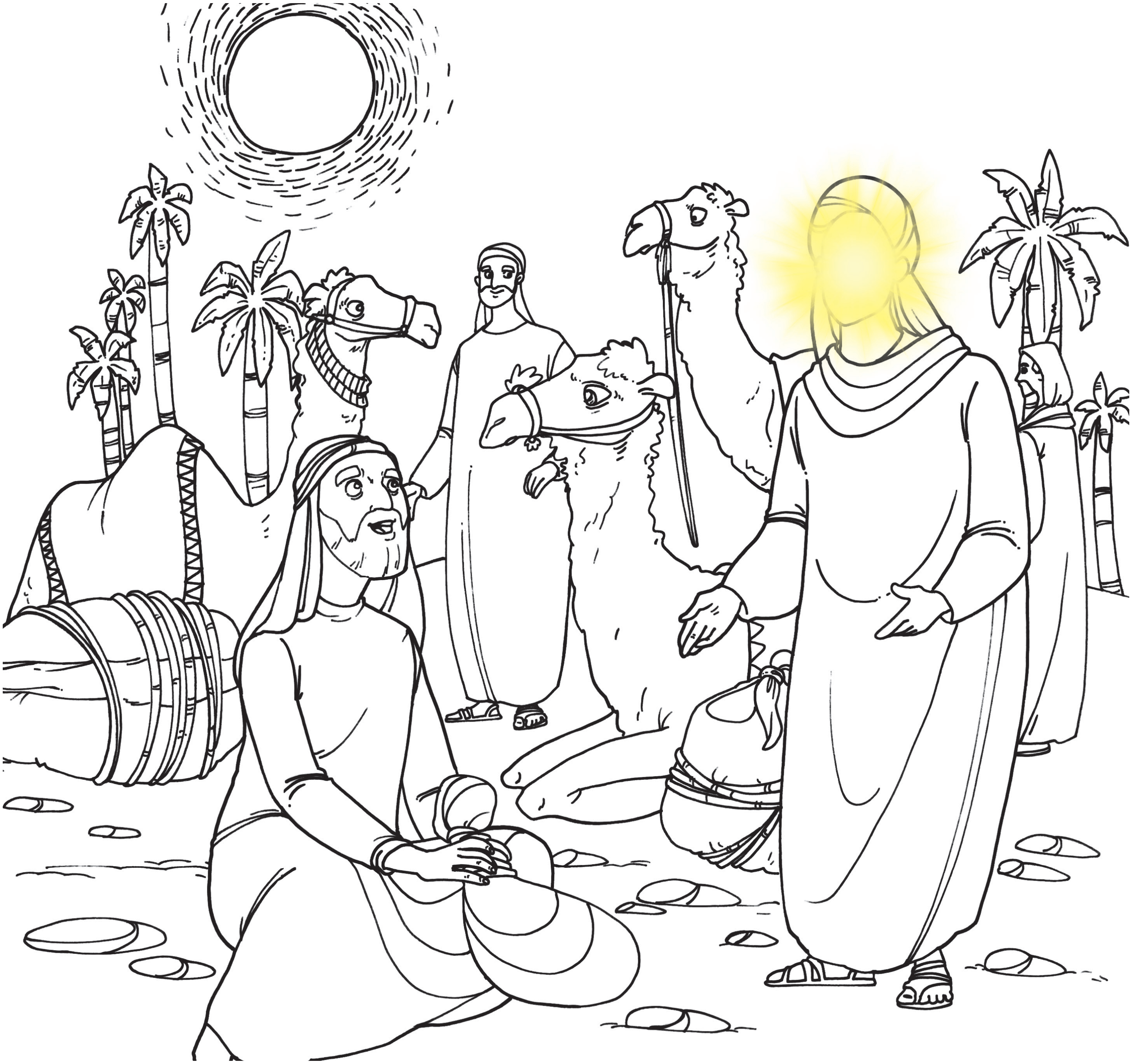
مَنْ أَحَبَّنَا فَهُوَ مَعَنَا فِي الْجَنَّةِ

Imām ʿAlī (ʿa):
Whoever truly loves us (the Ahl al-Bayt) will be with us in Heaven.

Biḥār ul-Anwār, Vol. 10, P. 107



Importance of Loving & Following the Ahl al-Bayt

Objective: Students will learn about the importance of loving and following the Ahl al-Bayt (ʿa).

For the past few lessons, we have discussed the importance of different acts of worship, and how it is food for our souls. In addition to praying and reciting Qurʾān, another very important part of our spiritual health is loving and following the Ahl al-Bayt. This means to not only admire and respect them, but to also follow their teachings. When we do this, we get closer to Allah, and as stated in the ayah, Allah will love us for it.

In the story, Abū Dharr, a companion of Prophet Muḥammad (ṣ), did not take a sip of the refreshing water until he shared some with the Noble Prophet (ṣ), even though he was very thirsty. What does that show us? It shows that the love and consideration Abū Dharr had for the Noble Prophet (ṣ) was such that he was thinking about the Noble Prophet (ṣ) before himself. This is the kind of feeling we should have for the Ahl al-Bayt. Before doing anything, we should think, is this going to make them happy or disappointed? We should always keep them in mind, and follow their teachings and advice. Today, we are going to make a craft that will help us always remember the Ahl al-Bayt.

Suggested Ages: 5+

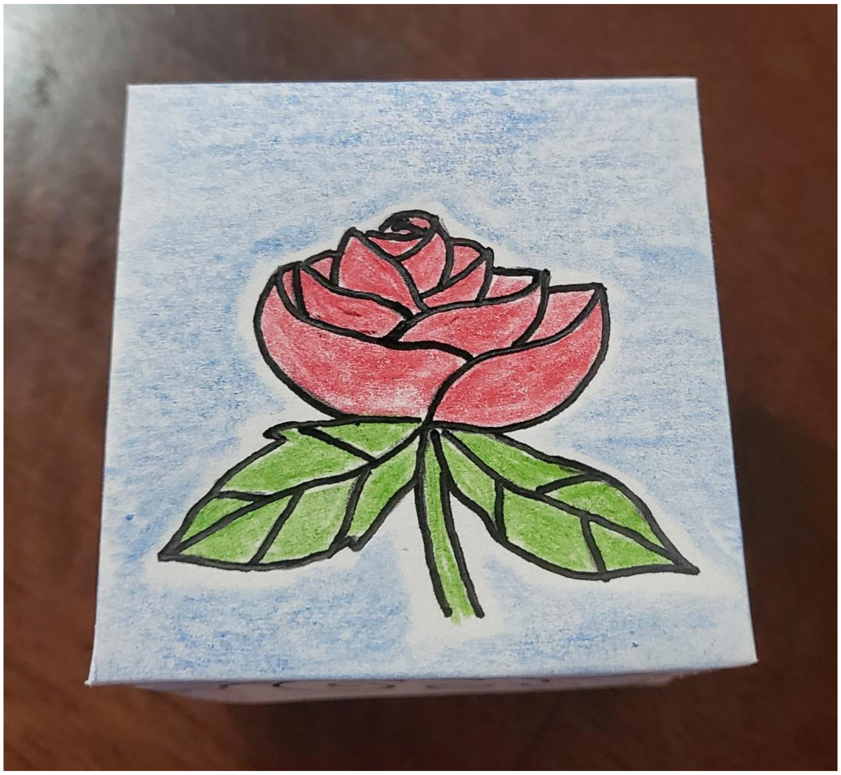
Time: 40 minutes

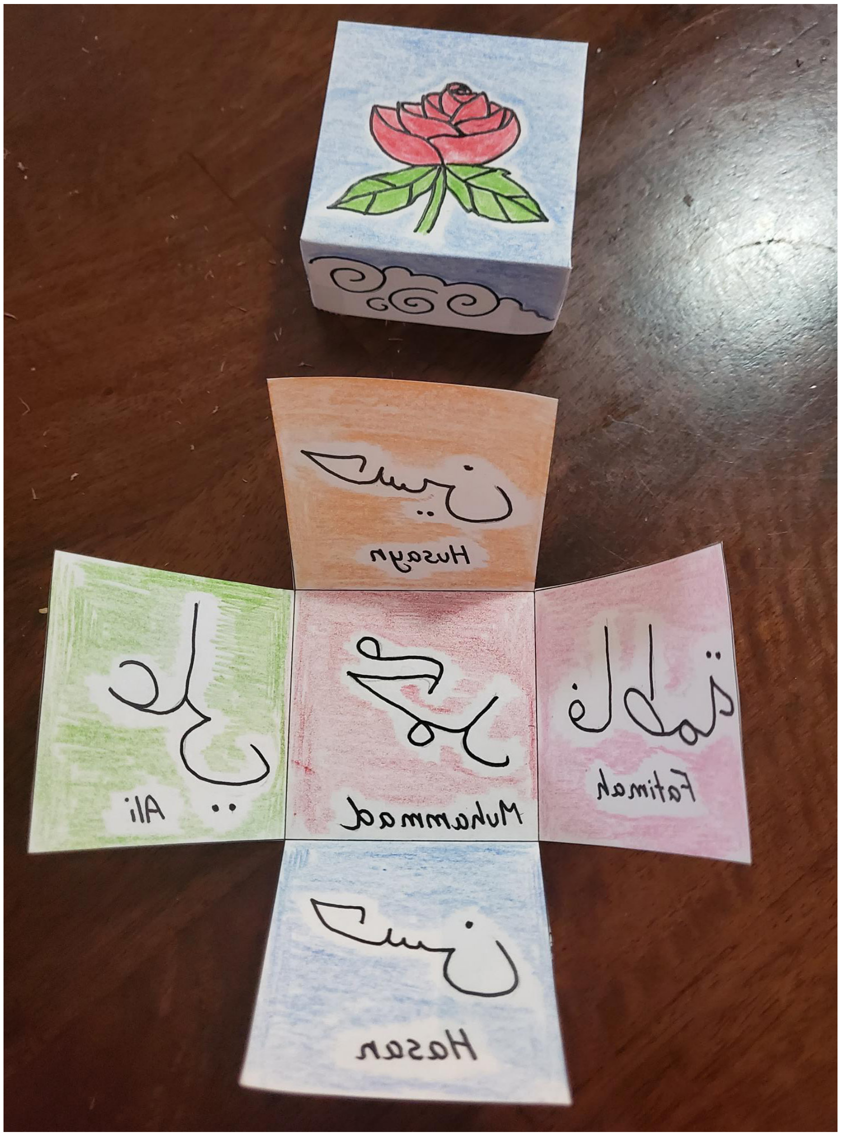
Materials:

- Craft box template
- Craft box lid template
- Scissors
- Glue
- Markers

Procedure:

1. Using the template, color and decorate each of the 5 inside squares.
2. Write the names of the Ahl al-Bayt (ʿa) in each square (1 name per square).
3. Color and decorate the lid template as well as the outside of the box template.
4. Cut out both the craft box and lid template.
5. Starting with the square template, fold and cut according to what it says to create the lid. Then fold in and glue in place.
6. Create the box by folding each of the folds.
7. Place the lid on top of the box to keep it in place. Everytime you take the lid off, it should unfold and show the names of the Ahl al-Bayt (ʿa).

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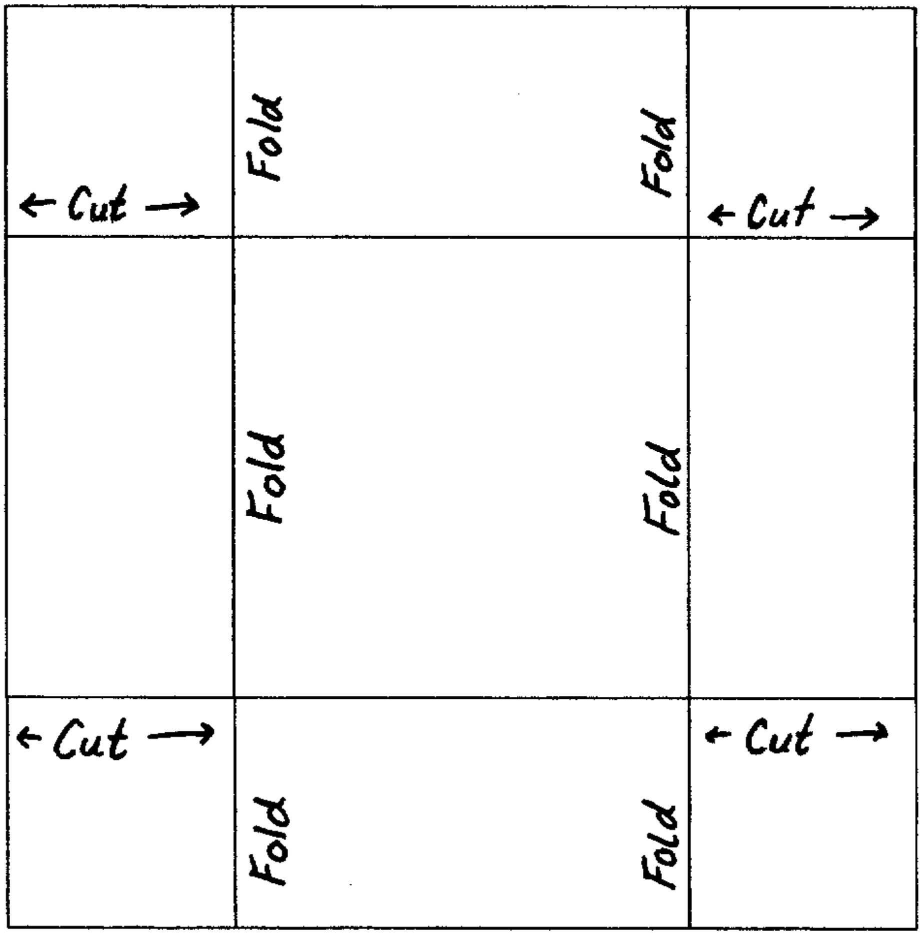
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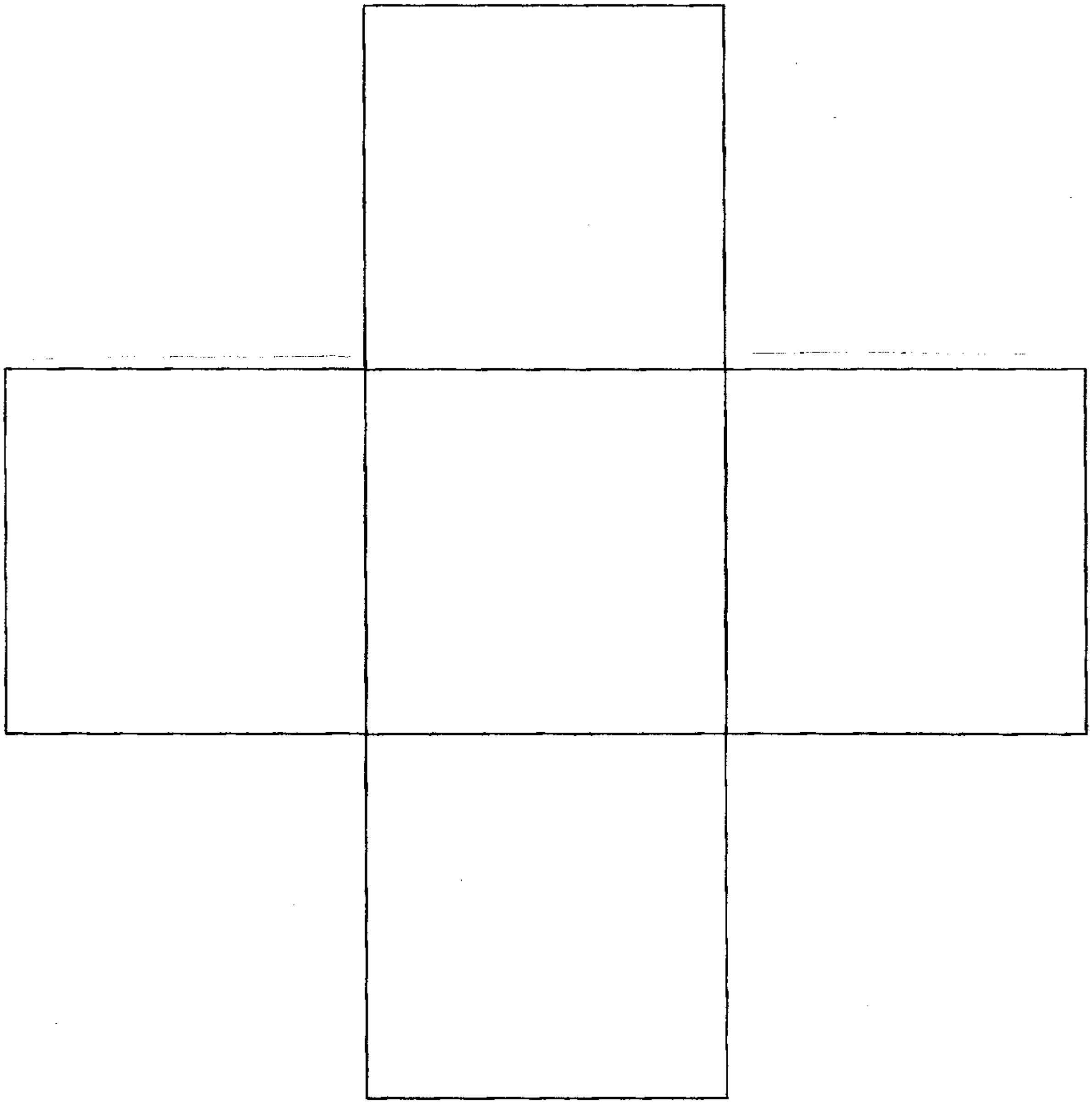

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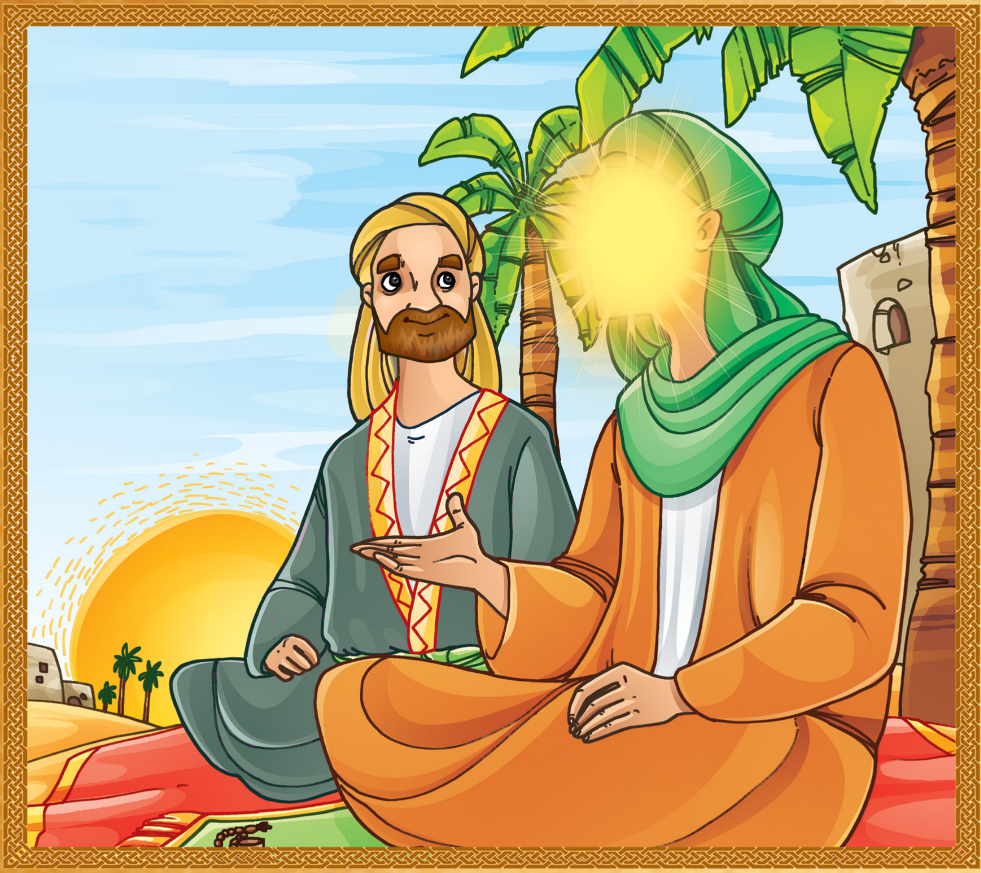
Lesson 15: Importance of Angels & Reward

(taken from *The Guiding Light* book 8, lesson 5)



مَّا يَلۡفِظُ مِن قَوۡلٍ إِلَّا لَدَيۡهِ رَقِيبٌ عَتِيدٌ

Not even a single word is spoken without there being [an angel] watching over, ready (to write).

Sūrah Qāf, Verse 18

One day as the Prophet (ṣ) was looking up at the clear blue sky, he smiled. A man who was sitting next to him noticed this and wondered what the Prophet (ṣ) was smiling about. I don't see anything; there's nothing in the sky, he thought.
"Why are you smiling?" he asked the Prophet (ṣ) after clearing his throat.

The Prophet (ṣ) turned to him and said, "I saw two angels in the sky. They came down to the earth to reward a man for being a good worshipper. But since they did not find him in his usual spot, they knew that he was sick. So, when they went back up to the sky to tell Allah, Allah told them to record good deeds for the sick man on each day that he was sick."

Allah knew that the sick man had good intentions. He also knew that if he had not been sick, he would have made it to the masjid, so He rewarded him even though he was absent from the masjid. Allah is so kind that He always tries to find reasons to reward us, even if we don’t deserve it.

Biḥār ul-Anwār, Vol. 1

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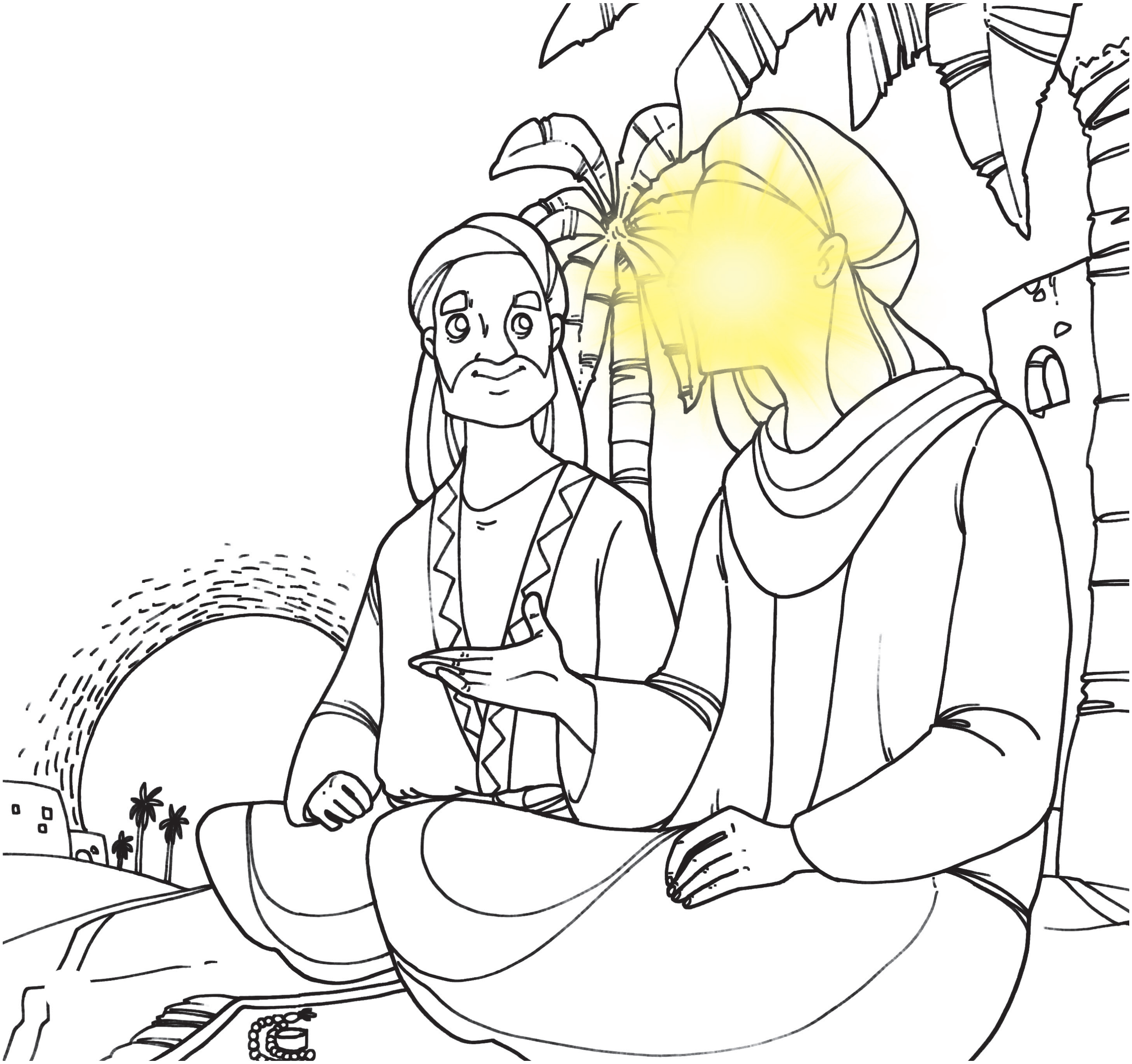
قَدْ وَكَّلَ بِذَالِكَ حَفَظَةً لَا يُسْقِطُونَ حَقًّا

Imām ʿAlī (ʿa):

Surely, Allah sent angels to record all of our deeds so that nothing goes unreported.

Nahj ul-Balāghah, Sermon #182



Importance of Angels & Reward

Objective: Students will learn about who records our deeds and the reward of doing good deeds.

As we discussed in a previous lesson, Allah gives us so many opportunities to gain thawāb. This is because Allah wants us to succeed and get closer to Him. So when we count up our good deeds, we aren't doing it to brag or think we are ahead. It is because getting rewarded for good deeds motivates us to stay on the right path and avoid doing bad deeds. So who keeps track of all our good deeds?

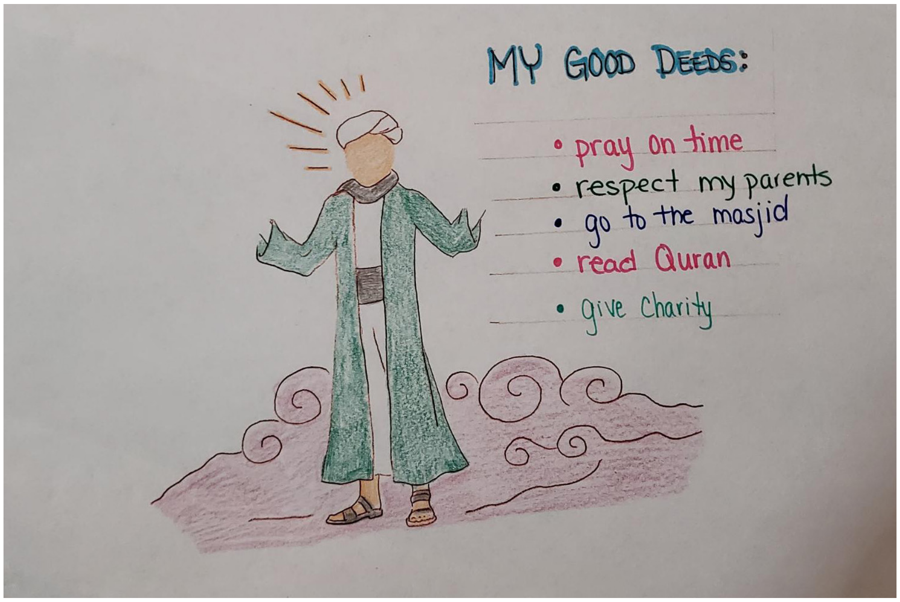
Imām ʿAlī (ʿa) has said, "Allah sent angels to record all of our deeds so that nothing goes unreported." This means that everything we do is written down. Why is this something Imām ʿAlī (ʿa) wanted us to know? Well, when we know that someone is keeping a record of all of our actions, we will be more mindful of what we do. We will make sure that we do good deeds and don't make any poor choices. Today, we are going to do an activity that will remind us of the angel writing down our deeds.

Suggested Ages: 5+

Time: 40 minutes

Materials:
- Angel template
- Colored pencils
- Markers

Procedure:
1. Using the angel template write the good deeds that you think/plan to do for the week under the title "My Good Deeds."
2. Color the template.



MY GOOD DEEDS:

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AL-KISA
FOUNDATION
UNDER THE CLOAK OF GUIDANCE AND MERCY

2022 | 1443 AH

Shahr Ramadan

Project Booklet

Under the Guidance of Moulana Nabi R. Mir (Abidi)